Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-160
Monday
19 August 1991

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FBIS-LAT-91-160 *19 August 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Fidel Castro Receives Pan Am Recognition Plaque *[Havana TV]* 1
Interviewed at Swimming Event *[Havana TV]* 1
Villa Clara To Select Party Congress Delegates *[Havana TV]* 1
Ciego de Avila To Elect 20 to Party Congress *[Havana Radio]* 1
Western Army To Elect Delegates to Congress *[Havana Radio]* 1
Soviet Procuracy Delegation Meets With Escalona *[Havana TV]* 2
Mexico To Facilitate Communications Satellites *[Havana Radio]* 2
Havana Construction Workers Awarded Gold Medals *[Havana TV]* 2

Barbados

Caribbean Rights Praises Brathwaite's Decision *[CANA]* 2

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Announces Government Post Changes *[Santo Domingo Radio/TV]* 2
Government Reaches Agreement With Nurses *[Santo Domingo Radio/TV]* 3
Homemade Bomb Hurled Into Jaina Police Building *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 3

Grenada

Nation Rejoins OECS Court System 13 Aug *[CANA]* 3
Author Cites 'Independent Statesmanship' *[CANA]* 3

Haiti

Chamber of Deputies President Casseus Resigns *[AFP]* 4
CONACOM Condemns 13 Aug Terrorist Actions *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4

St. Lucia

UWP Official 'Hinted' at Early Elections *[CANA]* 4

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Human Rights Group Pleased With Commutations *[CANA]* 5

Trinidad and Tobago

Human Rights Group Commends 'Brave Decision' *[CANA]* 5

MEXICO

* Zorrilla Found Innocent of Drug Charges *[EXCELSIOR 18 Jul]* 6

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Security Minister Resigns, Cites Reasons *[San Jose Radio]* 7
Fishman Assumes Security Post *[San Jose Radio]* 7
Cabinet Reshuffle Considered *[San Jose Radio]* 7
Official Detained in Connection With Abduction *[Panama City ACAN]* 7

El Salvador

Ponce Says Army Not To 'Cover Up' Abuses *[EL MUNDO 15 Aug]* 8
ANTMAG Employees Call For Nationwide Strike *[DIARIO LATINO 16 Aug]* 8
Government Urges Stand Down *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 17 Aug]* 9
Cristiani on IRA Closing, Strike *[San Salvador Radio/TV]* 9
* Salvador Samayoa on FMLN Internal Debate *[DIARIO LATINO 20, 22 Jul]* 11

Nicaragua

Bombs Explode in Cities Over 24-Hour Period *[AFP]* 11
'Recontras' Agree To End Hostilities *[Panama City ACAN]* 12
Government Makes Offer to El Indomable *[Managua Radio]* 12
CES Reaches Agreement on Ownership Issue *[BARRICADA 2 Aug]* 12
Sugar Mill Workers Declare General Strike *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 14
USSR Interested in Economic Cooperation *[Managua TV]* 14

Panama

PRD Rejects Noriega's Political Aspirations *[AFP]* 14
'About 260' Refugees Begin 48-Hour Fast *[LA PRENSA 16 Aug]* 14

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Gonzalez Denies Resignation, Lauds Gulf Mission *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 15
Menem on Release of Former Intelligence Agent *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 16 Aug]* 15
Menem Leaves for Brazil on 2-Day Visit *[TELAM]* 15
Armed Forces To Reduce Troops, Sell Property *[Madrid EFE]* 15
Emergency in Santa Cruz; Evacuation Begins *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 16

Bolivia

Foreign Minister Says Border Conflict Not Over *[Madrid EFE]* 16
Military Patrols Increased *[Madrid EFE]* 17
Mining Under Secretaries Submit Resignations *[La Paz TV]* 17
ADN Leader Denies Banzer Protecting Gen. Meza *[La Paz TV]* 17
Energy Minister Discusses Gas Sales to Argentina *[La Paz TV]* 17
Human Rights Assembly Protests Japanese Offer *[La Paz Radio]* 18

Brazil

Parties Reject Mosbacher's Criticism *[Madrid EFE]* 18
U.S. Grants Aid To Fight Drug Trafficking *[Brasilia Radio]* 18
Federal Employees Receive Wage Increase *[Brasilia Radio]* 18
January-July Foreign Capital Increases Noted *[Brasilia Radio]* 18

Chile

Menem Accusation on Making Chemical Weapons 18
Military Source Denies Remark *[Santiago Radio]* 18
Minister Refutes Production *[Santiago Radio]* 19
Aylwin Comments on Remark *[Santiago Radio]* 19

Colombia

Heavy Casualties in Rebel Attack on Simiti *[AFP]* 19
CNGSB Seeks Resumption of Peace Talks *[Hamburg DPA]* 20
President Specifies Partners *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 20
Guerrillas To Continue Hostilities *[AFP]* 20
Deputy Bribed To Vote Against Extradition *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 21
* Assembly Members Assess Judicial Reforms 21
* Flaws Viewed *[EL ESPECTADOR 4 Jul]* 21
* Strengths Outlined *[EL ESPECTADOR 4 Jul]* 22

Paraguay

Presence of U.S. Troops in Concepcion Criticized *[Asuncion TV]* 23
Rodriguez Answers Question on Press Law *[HOY 18 Aug]* 23
Chilean-Uruguayan Group Purchase BCCI Branches *[ABC COLOR 17 Aug]* 24
Document Outlines Proposed Armed Forces Security 24
Part Three *[ABC COLOR 16 Aug]* 24
New Owners of HOY Newspaper Announced *[ULTIMA HORA 17 Aug]* 25

Peru

Armed Forces Declare State of Emergency 25
Rebels Murder Candidates *[Lima TV]* 25
Security Redoubled in Districts *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 25
Bomb Explodes, Elections Continue *[Madrid EFE]* 26
Armed Forces Confirms Clash With Terrorists *[Madrid EFE]* 26
Extremists Captured *[Madrid EFE]* 27
Government Decrees New Sales, Consumption Taxes *[EL COMERCIO 9 Aug]* 27
Roundup of Terrorist Activities 7-12 Aug *[EL COMERCIO 9 Aug, etc.]* 27

Uruguay

Economic-Political Agreement Signed With Iran *[Tehran IRNA]* 28
Poll Reveals National Party Losing Support *[Madrid EFE]* 28
Gros Announces New Brussels-Falklands Flights *[Madrid EFE]* 28

Venezuela

Foreign Minister Duran Rejects Cuba Initiative *[Hamburg DPA]* 28
Colombia Accepts Apology for Plane Incident *[Caracas TV]* 29

Cuba

Fidel Castro Receives Pan Am Recognition Plaque

FL1608134091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1040 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has received from Mario Vazquez Rana, president of the Pan American Sports Organization [PASO], a plaque in recognition of the feat accomplished by Cuba in organizing the 11th Pan American Games Havana 91. Jose Ramon Fernandez, president of the Pan American Games Organizing Committee, Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, president of the Cuban Olympic Committee, and Pedro Chavez, president of the Havana City People's Assembly, also received certificates of recognition during the ceremony. Fidel and Vazquez Rana spoke words full of emotion during the ceremony.

[Begin recording] [Vazquez] Thank you for everything Mr. President Castro. [applause]

[Castro] I think it is only fair to say that the assistance provided by the Pan American Sports Organization has been extraordinary. I do not want to start a personality cult. Is this politics or sports? I must say in all fairness that Vazquez Rana did help us quite a lot. [applause] We are very happy, very pleased, with the respect our people have shown to the athletes, our people's warmth. I have seen friendship and brotherhood among all. I have presented medals to athletes from many countries. To place a medal on a chest from another country makes me happier than on my own countrymen. I presented medals to Canadian, American, South American, and Caribbean athletes.

I am telling you the truth. I have lived quite a few years. I am not a great grandfather, but I am over 60. I just celebrated my 65th birthday. [applause] I have never witnessed anything as beautiful as this period of brotherhood and friendship. We could say that those who dedicate themselves to sports, and those of us that are dedicated to promote sports—we also promote education and health—promote the noblest of all possible causes. Our history of involvement in international sports activities and our relations with PASO and Vazquez Rana, are a real example, a real lesson in civilized and courteous behavior. [applause] [end recording]

Interviewed at Swimming Event

FL1708122091 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0210 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by unidentified reporter at Pan-American Games Pool Complex in Havana on 16 August—live or recorded, monitored in progress]

[Unidentified reporter] ...How do you feel after this victory by a Cuban [words indistinct]?

[Castro] Well, no one can imagine how exciting this race has been, because our comrade, who is very young, does not yet have a lot of strength in his stroke, but he came out among the best. He was third or fourth. He was in about third place after the first lap. Then he began to ....[rephrases] He was in second or third place with 50 meters [m] left. He went ahead with 15 m left. With 15 or 20 m left, we could see that he was going to win. It was very exciting, really. This was not only a great victory, and a historic event, but it was also a very hard-fought race. It was tremendous. We are going to see it again; you are going to broadcast it, are you not?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] So we will watch for it.

Villa Clara To Select Party Congress Delegates

FL1608155491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Villa Clara Province will start direct selection of 39 delegates to the fourth party congress by the end of this month. The delegates will be selected from 39 different enterprises. The efforts and results of several enterprises have earned them the right to directly select their delegates. These enterprises include, among others, the 10 de Octubre, Quintin Banderas, and 26 de Julio sugar mills, and the Campana de las Villas and Leoncio Vidal contingents that are building the causeway to Cayo Santa Maria and the highway to Motenbo.

Ciego de Avila To Elect 20 to Party Congress

FL1608235491 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1954 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Ciego de Avila Province will elect 20 delegates to the the fourth party congress through direct vote, primarily from the areas of production, service, education, and research. Elections will take place between 19 August and 10 September. The work centers that earned this high honor are the Orlando Gonzalez, Patria o Muerte, and Enrique Varona sugarcane mills and several construction contingents.

Western Army To Elect Delegates to Congress

FL1608225891 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] We have been informed that the political department of the Western Army has held an extensive meeting to select their delegate candidates to the Communist Party of Cuba Fourth Congress. The completion of primary tasks of community-based organizations of the party and the Union of Young Communists was analyzed in this command's meeting as well as assigning six military units to elect full delegates to this Cuban Communists' major event.

Soviet Procuracy Delegation Meets With Escalona

FL1708022491 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Today, a USSR delegation headed by Dr. Nicolav Trubin, procurator general, met with Dr. Juan Escalon Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. During the meeting, Escalona spoke about the present situation Cuba faces, especially about how it is dealing with the special period and the food program. Dr. Trubin mentioned the advances Cuba has made in pharmacology and health and noted significant achievements in tourism.

During the meeting, also attended by Cuban Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz, Dr Trubin received the National Assembly coin as a token of his visit. Cubans and Soviets exchanged bibliographies of their respective countries.

Mexico To Facilitate Communications Satellites

FL1608145591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1408 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Cuban Communications Minister Manuel Castillo has confirmed that Mexico will give Cuba facilities for using the Morelos satellite system in order to contribute to communications efficiency. As a previous step, a ground station will be installed in Cuba. It will be used to make international connections via the Morelos satellite and later via the Solidaridad satellite. Manuel Castillo added that Cuba's incorporation into this system will have a direct impact on improving its communications with other countries, basically Central America and Mexico. The Cuban communications minister is attending a meeting of Ibero-American communications ministers in Mexico which is primarily to discuss the autonomous enterprise system for postal services.

Havana Construction Workers Awarded Gold Medals

FL1608161491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] More than 600 construction workers from San Miguel del Padron and Guanabacoa Municipalities in Havana were presented with Pan-American Games gold medals. The workers participated in the construction of buildings which are serving as the site of the games in the capital. Presiding at the ceremony were Havana First Party Secretary Jorge Lezcano, and Eduardo Tejeren and Alberto Ramirez, the first party secretaries for San Miguel del Padron and Guanabacoa, respectively. In addition to the construction associated with the games, housing and social projects were also built in those municipalities for the people's welfare.

Barbados

Caribbean Rights Praises Brathwaite's Decision

FL1608000691 Bridgetown CANA in English 2056 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 15, CANA—Caribbean Rights, praising Grenada's announcement of mercy for the 14 Maurice Bishop murder convicts as a courageous act, has urged regional governments to consider abolishing the death penalty.

"Caribbean Rights feels that this may be the moment in our social history when all governments of the Caribbean Community should give serious and urgent consideration to commuting all death sentences to life imprisonment, and to abolishing of the death penalty," Executive Secretary Victor Curry told Grenada Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite in a cable.

Brathwaite on Wednesday announced the Grenada Mercy Committee's decision to commute the death sentences on the former government and military officials to life imprisonment, after their failed appeals in Grenada's appeal court.

Caribbean Rights, a Barbados-based network grouping eight regional human rights groups, had earlier appealed for clemency for the 14 convicted for the murders of Bishop, some cabinet members and other associates in a 1983 Grenada palace coup.

Thursday's cable to Brathwaite said the government's "response to the pleas of mercy made by regional and international human rights groups to spare the fourteen from the gallows is a most enlightened and courageous one."

Noting that Brathwaite's stated reasons for the act of mercy included holding the government together and supporting the flourishing of democracy, the group appealed to Grenada to also spare all other prisoners under death sentence.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Announces Government Post Changes

FL1608180291 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Late last night, President Balaguer named Juan Aristide Taveras Guzman, political secretary of the Social Christian Reformist Party, to the post of secretary of state for foreign relations. Taveras Guzman replaces Dr. Joaquin Ricardo Garcia who will now occupy the position of secretary of state without portfolio. Dr. Ricardo, who is related to Balaguer, occupied the post for the last four years.

Also announced last night, Juan Luis Seliman is to head the Airports Department. Until last night, Seliman occupied the post of secretary of state without portfolio. He is a career official of the administrations of Dr. Joaquin Balaguer.

Government Reaches Agreement With Nurses

FL1608181991 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The Dominican Government reached an agreement yesterday which will result in the end of the strike by the nurses and laboratory technicians at all health centers. Among the agreements reached, it was established that the layoffs and hiring of replacements which occurred during the strike will be revoked, and the wages that were withheld will be paid in accordance with the payroll lists that were valid on 9 April when the strike began. The agreement was signed by Dr. Clarence Charles Dunlop, the medical advisor to the Office of the Presidency, and Iris Mejia de Martinez of the Association of Registered Nurses.

Homemade Bomb Hurled Into Jaina Police Building

FL1608185791 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] This past Thursday, during the early morning hours, unidentified individuals hurled a homemade bomb into the police station in the city of Jaina. The bomb caused no damage but frightened area residents. Police and military patrols conducted an intensive search in Jaina and arrested a great number of people for questioning. The police did not reveal the number of detainees or their names.

Grenada

Nation Rejoins OECS Court System 15 Aug

FL1608180191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1708 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Aug 16, CANA—Grenada has rejoined the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS] court system after a 12-year absence, Attorney-General Francis Alexis reported Friday. Grenada rejoined midnight Thursday, Alexis said.

Grenada pulled out of the OECS court system March 14, 1979, a day after Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement took power in a coup d'etat. The return came after the local court system tried, sentenced, and heard appeals from 17 former government and military officials who were involved in Bishop's 1983 murder.

Author Cites 'Independent Statesmanship'

FL1608020491 Bridgetown CANA in English 2214 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Aug 15, CANA—The Grenada Government on Thursday drew cheers, groans, and some heavy fire for cancelling the death sentence against 14 former top Army and government officials. It also heard warnings that commuting the death sentence to life imprisonment for the group which killed leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and some members of his cabinet in a 1983 palace coup could spell unrest for Grenada.

"(The Grenada Government's) response to the pleas of mercy made by regional and international human rights groups to spare the 14 from the gallows is a most enlightened and courageous one," Barbados-based Caribbean Rights said. But lawyer and former advisor to Bishop, Bobby Clarke, said from Barbados: "The (1983) killings ...were vicious, cool, and calculated, and they were triumphant at the end of the killing. I think if they had been executed, it would have been a cleansing for Grenada and the Caribbean."

The 14 condemned former government and military officials, and three others jailed for life, lost appeals here last month, raising expectations that the 14 would soon be hanged for the murder of former Prime Minister Bishop and associates in the 1983 leftist palace coup. The coup was ended by a U.S. military invasion.

Announcing the Mercy Committee's decision Wednesday night, Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite said Grenadians have had enough of bloodshed, and should seek peace at a time when the communist ideology, for which some here were prepared to kill, was now "dead."

"The whole world is now clamoring for global peace. What the 14 need to do is to repent for their wrongs before God, and to apologize to the Grenadian people."

Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles said she would have done things differently in Brathwaite's position, but remarked:

"He knows what the country wants, so I presume he is following the wishes of the people in doing that. He must feel that Grenada is better off with that decision." But she said the decision had potential for unrest, because efforts could be made to forcefully free the 14 from jail.

Caribbean Rights, a human rights network, took the opportunity to appeal to regional governments to urgently consider commuting all death sentences to life imprisonment, and abolishing the death penalty. Amnesty International, in a letter to Brathwaite, commended the commutation of death sentences as affirmation of the value of life, international human rights standards, and world progress towards elimination of the death penalty.

"We hope that such a humanitarian measure will provide an important example to other governments who may be encouraged to take similar steps," general secretary of the London-based group, Ian Martin, said.

Deputy leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, Einstein Louison, criticised the reprieve and said the government seems to have acted under pressure. "It's really a sad day," he said.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association President Victor Cuffy expressed pleasure that "the Grenada Government has seen it fit and has acted wisely in commuting the death sentences. We hope this is the start of something new and momentous in the Caribbean."

Leader of the opposition Dominica Labour Party, Michael Douglas, however, expressed disappointment:

"I feel that history ought to adequately record what was the final fate of those who so cruelly, brutally, without any mercy, without any consideration, fell upon their own comrades and slaughtered people who were so very much at the forefront of social and political change in the region in the early eighties."

St. Lucia's opposition leader Julian Hunte, in a short statement, said the decision "closes the final chapter on what has been a terrible and regrettable aspect of the Grenadian and Caribbean experience."

Grenadian publisher and author of a book on the Grenada revolution, Dennis Dabreo, said Brathwaite ignored pressure from the U.S. and from within the region, and showed "independent statesmanship, which is foreign to many prime ministers in the region."

Trinidad lawyer Isreal Khan said the commutations could lead to the present government being thrown out of power.

"If the majority of people are for the execution of the perpetrators of the atrocious crime of executing the prime minister and others, (and) they are of the view that they ought to have carried out that execution, and feel very strongly about it, it could be... that the present government will be removed out of office, or ought to be removed, if they feel strongly about it," Khan told CANA.

Haiti

Chamber of Deputies President Casseus Resigns

PA1708044091 Paris AFP in Spanish 0358 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Aug (AFP)—Ernst Pedro Casseus, president of the Chamber of Deputies of Haiti, announced today in Port-au-Prince that he has resigned from his post.

Casseus said on Haitian television that he has resigned because of his colleagues' protests over his decision to suspend, for security reasons, last Tuesday's parliamentary session during which Prime Minister Rene Preval was scheduled to explain the performance of his government.

During the session, progovernment demonstrators tried to lynch a deputy, threw rocks at the parliament, and issued death threats against the parliamentarians. The demonstrators set a labor union headquarters on fire and looted the headquarters of two political parties that had been demanding the resignation of the prime minister.

Casseus stated: "My decision to suspend the session was a wise one. Since this decision has been criticized, I have resigned."

The country's most important political leaders as well as the members of Congress have strongly condemned the acts of violence saying that they represent a threat to democracy and a return to what the dictatorship used to do.

U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Alvin Adams has also condemned the incidents. He described them as "disgraceful" and a "tragedy" for the country.

CONACOM Condemns 13 Aug Terrorist Actions

FL1608204491 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The National Congress of Democratic Movements [CONACOM] condemns the terrorist actions of 13 August and calls upon the patriotism of President Aristide. The CONACOM national secretary is alarmed at the degradation of the political situation demonstrated by terrorist actions on 13 August. In this atmosphere of populist chaos nourished by individuals who claim to be partisans of Prime Minister Rene Preval, CONACOM is seriously concerned about rumors threatening assassination of political, union, and civic leaders. [passage omitted]

St. Lucia

UWP Official 'Hinted' at Early Elections

FL1608013891 Bridgetown CANA in English 2138 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Aug 15, CANA—A senior official of the ruling United Workers Party (UWP) on Thursday hinted at general elections being called long before July next year, when they are constitutionally due.

"...The only person who has a decision to make in that direction is the prime minister himself, and I am not privy to that secret, but looking at the general atmosphere and what is happening, I would not be surprised if it is called at either late this year or early next year," UWP's General Secretary Nicholas Celestine said.

The main opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) also says it believes that Prime Minister John Compton, seeking an unprecedented sixth term in office, will call the polls well before it is constitutionally due. The SLP has been holding a series of public meetings, and launching candidates under the theme "on the road to victory." Celestine said he believed that the UWP would win 12 of the 17 seats at stake.

"It's difficult to make a forecast, (but)... I see us winning no less than 12 seats," he said. In the last two elections, the UWP won nine of the 17 seats, but the majority increased after Foreign Minister Neville Cenac crossed the floor.

Celestine said that his party would win a "comfortable" margin at the polls, adding "we are going out to win a convincing victory, so we would not have to depend on any defections to form a good strong government." The UWP general secretary said that the party was now "on an election footing," and the campaign would centre on the achievements of the government over the past years.

"I think the track record of the UWP ... is something people are bound to respond to. I have no doubt that this is going to be the main attraction that will lead to a UWP victory," he said.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Human Rights Group Pleased With Commutations

FL1508213191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1923 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Aug 15, CANA—The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association on Thursday welcomed the Grenada Government's decision to commute to life the death sentences of 14 persons condemned for the murder of leftist leader Maurice Bishop and others.

"We are very pleased that the Grenada Government has seen it fit and has acted wisely in commuting the death sentences. We hope this is the start of something new and momentous in the Caribbean," the association's president, Victor Cuffy, said. Cuffy, who also heads the regional human rights body, Caribbean Rights, said he hoped the decision by the Nicholas Brathwaite administration would provide direction for other Caribbean governments, including the St. Vincent administration, to abolish the death penalty and commute all death sentences to life imprisonment.

St. Vincent's Justice Minister Parnel Campbell has publicly stated government's opposition to scrapping the death penalty.

Brathwaite, stressing a theme of national reconciliation, on Wednesday night announced the commuting of death sentences on the 14 persons convicted of the 1983 murder of Bishop. In a broadcast on state radio and television, Brathwaite said the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy had advised Governor General Sir Paul Scoon on this course of action. Brathwaite said a similar recommendation would be made in respect of other prisoners on death row.

"We have enough bloodshed in Grenada," Brathwaite said, pointing to the turbulent politics of the seventies and early eighties. "Our people need to settle down, build a peaceful and stable country so that an atmosphere that is conducive to prosperity can be nurtured."

Trinidad and Tobago

Human Rights Group Commends 'Brave Decision'

FL1608005091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2126 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 15, CANA—Trinidadian lawyer Isreal Khan said on Thursday that the Grenada Government's decision to commute the death sentence on 14 persons could lead to the end of the present administration in St. George's.

"If the majority of people are for the execution of the perpetrators of the atrocious crime of executing the prime minister and others, (and) they are of the view that they ought to have carried out that execution, and feel very strongly about it, it could be...that the present government will be removed out of office, or ought to be removed, if they feel strongly about it," Khan told CANA.

Grenada Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite on Wednesday announced the death sentence against the 14 former government and army officials who killed Bishop and cabinet members in a 1983 palace coup would be reduced to life imprisonment. The 14 include former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and ex-Army Chief Hudson Austin.

Khan, who supports the retention of the death penalty, said he respects the decision of Prime Minister Brathwaite to accept the recommendation of the mercy committee to commute the sentences to life imprisonment. Trinidad and Tobago's Security Minister Joseph Toney said the decision of the Grenada Government was taken in the best interest of the country.

President of the Trinidad and Tobago Human Rights Association, Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj, told CANA that the Grenada Government acted in accordance with the international movement to abolish capital punishment.

"I don't agree with capital punishment... and the decision of Prime Minister Brathwaite is in keeping with the norms of the international movement," the senior lawyer said. The National Committee for the Abolition of the Death Penalty here, in a letter to Grenada's governor general, Sir Paul Scoon, commended the government for the "brave decision" to commute the death sentences.

"Grenada has taken a great humane and mature step for the Caribbean people," the committee said.

*** Zorrilla Found Innocent of Drug Charges**

91WD1049A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Jul 91 pp 5-A, 36-A

[Report by Hector Adorno and Luis Segura]

[Text] The former head of the now defunct Federal Security Directorate (DFS), Jose Antonio Zorrilla Perez, was acquitted yesterday by the third-district criminal-court judge, Olga Sanchez Contreras, of charges that he had committed crimes against public health. The decision was appealed by the prosecutor, who regarded it as contravening the evidence submitted at the trial. The former police official will remain on trial as the alleged murderer of Manuel Buendia Tellezgiron.

During the same proceedings the judge sentenced the former commander of this police body, Rafael Chao Lopez, to five years in prison for the crime of stockpiling weapons. At the same time, she acquitted him, as she did Zorrilla Perez, of the charges of crimes against public health that had been brought against him by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, which was dissatisfied with the sentence, indicating that it would officially appeal that same day because it considered it too light.

After hearing the judge's ruling, Jose Antonio Zorrilla Perez indicated that it had been demonstrated that at no point in his term of office as director of the DFS, and "neither before nor after," did he act to protect drug-trafficking activities, "and just like these charges, all of the others are completely false."

Meanwhile, the assistant attorney general for criminal proceedings of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR) indicated that that same day the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office would appeal the sentences that the judge gave to Zorrilla Perez and Chao Lopez because it felt that they are not commensurate with the gravity of the crimes of which the defendants were convicted during the criminal proceedings brought against them.

Around noon, Judge Sanchez Contreras ordered the proceedings to begin after verifying that both Zorrilla Perez and Chao Lopez were already in the bar-enclosed dock in the aforementioned federal judicial court, which is located at the Eastern Preventive Prison. The secretary of court-decisions first announced that the former head of the defunct DFS had been acquitted by the trial judge of the public-health-crime charges against him because the evidence was not conclusive.

Later, he addressed himself to Chao Lopez and told him that the judge had seen sufficient evidence to find him guilty of the crime of weapons stockpiling and had thus sentenced him to five years in prison. "At the same time, the judge decided to acquit him of the charges of crimes against public health because there was no evidence against him," the judicial officer said.

The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office attached to the aforementioned court immediately expressed dissatisfaction with both verdicts and indicated that after consulting with its superiors about the situation would appeal them so that a higher court would review the judge's decision.

In spite of Zorrilla Perez's acquittal, the former police official will not be going free, because he is serving a nine year, six month sentence that the first-district criminal-court judge handed down against him for the crime of weapons stockpiling, as well as a 32-year jail term for murdering political researcher Jose Luis Esqueda Gutierrez, although his defense counsel is appealing both rulings.

Zorrilla Perez is still on trial in 34th Criminal Court as the alleged mastermind of the murder of journalist Manuel Buendia Tellezgiron and will face further charges in federal court for violating the civil-servants law.

Costa Rica

Security Minister Resigns, Cites Reasons

PA1708022491 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Report by Henry Vasquez]

[Excerpts] As earlier unconfirmed reports have stated, Security Minister Victor Emilio Herrera announced his resignation a few minutes ago. [Passage omitted] Here is the outgoing minister.

[Begin Herrera recording] Today I tendered my resignation as security minister for the following reasons: 1. The disturbances that took place on 22 July 1991, which shook the public, called for a profound investigation and the adoption of strong and firm measures, owing to the late arrival of the public force. For that reason, I asked President Angel Calderon Fournier to remove Deputy Security Minister Eric Koreg for failing to take the appropriate action during the time he served as acting minister while I was away in Puerto Rico requesting helicopters and airplanes to handle emergencies and to fight drug trafficking.

2. My decision is based on a matter of conscience and principles that have always ruled my life. A minister must have a qualified team that places the interests of society above partisan and other similar interests [words indistinct]. In view of the absence of these basic requirements, my conscience forces me to resign.

3. It is my hope that peace, coordination, and mutual support among ministers prevails in the government presided over by Angel Calderon Fournier. I condemn the thirst for power and a divisive attitude, the harmful effects of which have sadly begun to appear, or rather the impact of which has begun to appear to the detriment of the interests of the fatherland. [end recording] [Passage omitted]

Fishman Assumes Security Post

PA1708023191 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0124 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Learning of Public Security Minister Victor Emilio Herrera's decision to resign as of 17 August, President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier has decided to appoint Government Minister Luis Fishman to take over the functions of the resigning minister until the situation in the Public Security Ministry is resolved, according to Rogelio Benavides, a spokesman for the president.

Benavides said the president is not in the capital, that he is at a beach resort, and in the next few hours he will receive the document that the minister handed over to the local media when, at 1830, he announced his decision to resign from the Public Security Ministry.

Faced with this situation, the president decided to assign the functions of public security minister to Government Minister Luis Fishman, who as of today has two jobs, one at the Government Ministry and the other at the Public Security Ministry. This will be the situtions until it is decided whether to appoint a new public security minister, who could be (Victor Gould Fournier), or to merge the two ministries, as has been proposed recently.

This is the president's decision, as reported by the spokesman of President Calderon Fournier.

Cabinet Reshuffle Considered

PA1708025291 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0115 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Report by William Cespedes from the Presidential Palace]

[Text] With the resignation of Security Minister Victor Emilio Herrera, which was announced shortly after 1800, a reshuffling of the cabinet seems to be starting. A few hours from now we will know for certain. Although earlier this week President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier admitted some persons have talked to him about the need to reshuffle his cabinet, he noted he had not made any decision. He has spent all day at the Cariari Hotel meeting with several of his advisers and closest aides and reviewing the situation, according to reports that have circulated at the Presidential Palace. As stated, Calderon Fournier, his advisers, and his closest aides will also be at the Cariari Hotel tomorrow making a profound analysis of the flaws and weaknesses of the past 15 months of this administration, to reorient the ministers' actions within the guidelines of the government program. It was stated that the planning, health, and security ministers may be changed. The latter has already left the cabinet. Outgoing Minister Herrera publicly stated he tendered his resignation because he was not given the assurances that his deputy minister would be removed.

Other ministers may leave their posts at the disposal of the president, as Vice President German Serrrano Pinto stated today. He acknowledged the need to reshuffle a number of figures so that the government can move along the lines sought by the president in the next three years of his administration. The cabinet changes have begun, although sources at the Presidential Palace indicate this does not mean a shake-up in the Calderon Fournier administration.

Official Detained in Connection With Abduction

PA1708015391 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2124 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] San Jose, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A top official of the Costa Rican Ministry of Security was arrested today for allegedly being involved in the abduction of a Cuban-American who was taken to the United States, apparently to be tried on drug trafficking charges.

According to official sources, Guillermo Vidal, a top official of the Ministry of Security, collaborated with the "ad honorem" Costa Rican consul in Miami, who was

identified as Donaldo Quijano Guardia, to get 38-year-old Ricardo Rene Martinez Perez out of the country. Martinez is said to be a fugitive of U.S. justice.

According to news reports, Quijano, who is considered the "head" of the operation, is a relative of Rafael Angel Calderon.

The abduction of Martinez took place on 14 August in a Costa Rican town near the Nicaraguan border, where he had been breeding cattle for the last 10 months.

Neighbors near the place the Cuban lived said five men passing as members of the public forces, two of whom seemed to be Americans, went to Martinez' house on the night of 13 August, illegally arrested him, and took him out of Costa Rica and to the United States.

Minister of Government Luis Fishman confirmed the illegal departure of the Cuban-American and said Vidal used his influence to carry out the operation.

Vidal's driver, an "ad honorem" police official, identified as Carlos Palma, and a brother who allegedly helped transfer Martinez to the United States, were arrested along with Vidal.

The Cuban-American is being processed in a U.S. Court for drug trafficking related crimes. He managed to escape after an insurance company posted a "wealth bail" setting him free, according to non- official reports.

It is believed that the insurance company, which was not identified, is also involved in the illegal abduction and deportation of Martinez.

According to LA NACION, an influential Costa Rican paper, the company offered $15,000 to anyone that could provide information leading to Martinez Perez.

The U.S. Embassy in San Jose has not yet issued any statements on the matter.

El Salvador

Ponce Says Army Not To 'Cover Up' Abuses

PA1708035791 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] [Defense Minister] General Rene Emilio Ponce and Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano, deputy public security minister, reported on 14 August, minutes before participating in an official ceremony at national Navy headquarters, that the Armed Forces High Command will not cover up directly or indirectly any violation of the civil or constitutional rights of the population by members of the Army.

The statements by Gen. Ponce and Col. Montano coincided with the arraignment of one sergeant, two corporals, and 12 soldiers from the Armed Forces Telecommunications Instruction Center, CITFA, in the Santo Tomas courthouse, at the request of the National Police.

It was stated at the Santo Tomas courthouse that the accused soldiers committed various crimes, including the rape of several young and older women and armed robbery, while they were deployed in the area on patrol.

Both Gen. Ponce and Col. Montano warned that members of the Armed Forces who infringe the law will be subject to the jurisdiction of the corresponding legal authorities, regardless of who they are. They added that the arm of the law will fall on any soldier who abuses his position as a soldier. They concluded by saying that other crimes denounced by civilians are currently being investigated by authorities.

In a televisised report, the Santo Tomas judge—who received the 15 arraigned soldiers—stated that after an introductory reading of the case, he found enough evidence to order the temporary arrest of those accused, who insist on denying the charges.

Those arrested are: Subsergeant Jose Julio Perez Gonzalez, Corporals Jose Amilcar Diaz Garcia and Anacleto de Jesus Guerrero, and soldiers Luis Alonso Mendez, Carlos Alexis Sanchez Alfaro, Porfirio Orellana Aguilar, Pedro Perez Rafael, Santos Secundino Ramirez Paredes, Raul Orellana Peralta Palacios, Sebastian Lopez, Bernabe Rivera Martinez, Luis Ernesto Ayala Cruz, Marco Tulio Martinez Diaz, Reyes Ponce Lopez, Rufino Vasquez Andres, and Adonay Ramirez Vasquez.

ANTMAG Employees Call For Nationwide Strike

PA1808043191 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 16 Aug 91 p 6

[Text] The National Association of Agriculture and Livestock Ministry Employees [Asociacion Nacional de Trabajadores del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganaderia—ANTMAG] has called a nationwide strike 19 August to protest the privatization of job centers.

ANTMAG Secretary General Miguel Angel Vasquez said the strike is to put pressure on the government because of the intransigent attitude it has adopted. He noted that 4,000 employees will support the strike.

Vasquez said he rejected the government's decision to close the Institute of Supply Regulation [IRA], which will entail the mass dismissal of its employees, and dismantle the unions to which the dismissed employees belonged.

The union leader also demanded that the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry [MAG] provide job stability and freedom of organization, which constitute the MAG employees' sole right.

Miguel Angel Vasquez asked that the wishes of some workers who leave MAG be respected and that they receive benefits from the voluntary compensation plan, which consists of 90 days of salary for every year worked, without differentiation based on their contracts. The union leader concluded by calling on all dismissed employees to accompany their fellow employees in solidarity on Monday during the strike scheduled to last eight working hours.

Government Urges Stand Down

PA1808140091 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Aug 91 p 5

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has charged that the call to strike on Monday, 19 August, made to public and municipal employees by agitator groups, which are FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] front groups, "aims as destabilizing the country."

The president stated that the groups calling the strike "are the same ones who incited the takeover of land and want to create a confrontation between the Salvadoran people and security corps."

The president added that the government will provide all the necessary guarantees to employees who wish to work, and for that reason he called on state employees to report to their respective job centers.

Those groups, he added, are creating a psychological terrorism when they talk of the new topic of privatization as something that could lead to the dismissal of all public employees.

The government established that the budgets of the Institute of Supply Regulation, National Coffee Institute, and Institute of Urban Housing, which entailed an expenditure of 130 million [no currency given] a year to the country, will be used to increase allocations in the fields of education, health, and housing.

Cristiani explained that the government will not divest itself of any institution, although the stocks of enterprises that must not be managed by the government, such as the Presidente Hotel, will be sold.

The government stated the following in a communique issued last night:

1. Some organizations are engaging in agitation activities directed at public employees, for purely political motivations, to sway them to perform actions that are at odds with the Constitution, the laws of the land, and, most of all, the Salvadoran people, whom they serve.

2. Those agitators have announced their intention of conducting "a general strike," on Monday, 9 August [date as published].

3. The implications at home and abroad of those actions are clear and aim at destabilizing the government, a situation that coincides with recent remarks by the FMLN.

4. Aware that the majority of the employees do not support those acts of provocation and want to resist the threats from those groups of agitators, the government is guaranteeing public employees their safety when they report to their offices and other job centers.

5. These are not the established and respected organizations of public employees, which have always struggled for purely labor objectives and have never violated the Constitution and the laws, or harm the people.

6. In view of this situation, the government is calling on all public employees to ignore the appeals to participate in the political strike and report to work so that the aforementioned agitators will not achieve their goal of creating a framework of social chaos that benefits those who are opposed by all means to the success of the peace process.

Cristiani on IRA Closing, Strike

PA1808043291 San Salvador Radio and Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Statement by President Alfredo Cristiani in San Salvador on 16 August—live or recorded]

[Text] I would like to express some ideas on a few topics of interest. First, I would like to comment on the agriculture minister's summons, which the Legislative Assembly approved on 15 August. We are pleased with this decision because it will allow the agriculture minister to clarify and explain in detail the reasons for the closing of the IRA [Institute of Supply Regulation]. I will refrain from explaining the details of the aforementioned situation, but you will have an opportunity to hear plenty of details about why the IRA Council of Directors made its decision. I would like to add that no illegal action has been taken. The executive branch has never tried to disrespect any other state branch, as has been stated.

The position adopted by some opposition deputies, particularly those from leftist groups, leaves much to be desired because—far from discussing this important issue in a serious manner—at times they appeared to be public square politicians, using their legislative seats like wild men. The also spoke in a demagogic manner, instead of seriously debating what was being discussed. For instance, we heard one deputy say that although most IRA workers had received compensation, this meant they would only have enough money to live on for a few months, after which their resources would run out. I would like to state that the compensation payment made to approximately 1,100 IRA workers totals nearly 28 million colones. If we see, for example, that the salaries of most IRA workers range from 1,000 to 1,500 colones, on the average they received salaries for nearly two years. This gives them enough time to adapt themselves to a new situation. This does not mean we do not understand, as human beings, that these people are facing a difficult situation. The government has made many difficult decisions. We know these decisions affect the population to some degree, but it is also true that, generally speaking, these decisions have a rationale.

The government is not sponsoring unemployment. We have already said there will be one teacher for each person who will receive severance compensation. In other words, we are just trying to use the government's limited resources to serve the Salvadoran population effectively and efficiently. This will result in greater benefits for the population. I reiterate that the agriculture minister will have the chance to provide more details on this closing and the logic behind it. This was not a hasty decision; it was thought out very well.

I would like to move on to the secont subject. We heard that some sectors called today for a general strike of public employees. I would like to say that this call was made by the same groups that have always sought excuses to destabilize El Salvador. They now emerge with new names. However, if we go to the bottom of this, these groups are formed by the same people who have always tried for whatever reason to destabilize our country. This helps the very strategy of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] these days. We see for example the takeovers of farms, of which the FMLN has clearly spoken at the bargaining table. The FMLN representatives have stated at the negotiations that they have sponsored the land takeovers. Let us review the pact with a confederation of peasant organizations. We reached an agreement with them, making it clear that the takeover of land was illegal. We explained that we can gradually resolve these problems legally. But you also saw one person representing one of those organizations, which have new names today, calling for more land takeovers. Despite reaching an agreement with most peasant organizations, this person said he was going to disregard the agreements to continue sponsoring the takeover of farms. We all had the opportunity to see that, in many instances, those who have taken over land did not need land. We have confirmed through Finata [National Financial Institute for Agricultural Lands] and the Registry Office that many of the people already owned land and were only trying to destabilize the country.

The much-publicized takeover of urban land, the case of Victoria shantytown, which is in the process of being solved.... [changes thought] We believe the case of Victoria shantytown is a good example for all of us. Today free from pressure, these people—many of whom are honest and have the real problem of not having a place to live—have said that they were there due to pressure from organizations such as the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers]. They stated that the UNTS built shantytown homes there, to rent them for 65 colones a month. They added that even cells of urban commandos of the FMLN—which threatened them and used them for public demonstrations—operated inside Victoria shantytown. In sum, now that they feel free and safe, many Victoria shantytown residents have told the media that they lived there under pressure by these same organizations which are making calls to destabilize our country. They have one goal; they are trying to pit the Salvadoran population against the Armed Forces and the security forces.

We have solved the problems as they have turned up. We have been flexible and have always tried to reach solutions in the most harmonious way. We even try to solve those problems that are frequently used as excuses by those who do not really want to find solutions, but want to destabilize. Now they are hoisting a new flag with the issue of privatization. I would dare to call this an attempt at psychological terrorism. These same groups that are trying to start government employee strikes and create other such problems are using the issue of privatization as if it were something that implies leaving all public employees out in the street. They say that the idea is to fire all government workers. They hope to find support for their calls by creating anxiety and concern among the people, and in so doing, destabilize the country.

I wish to be very clear on this. The government has analyzed three government agencies, of which the IRA's program has already been completed, which we considered to be unnecessary entitities that rendered no benefits to the country. We thought the best decision would be for them to cease operations. In doing this, no more money would be spent on something that does not benefit the Salvadoran people. Those three cases are: The Institute of Urban Housing [IVU], The Incafe [National Coffee Institute], and the IRA. These three government agencies were consuming—I say consuming because they were not producing anything—130 million colones a year to do absolutely nothing more than cover the expenses of doing nothing. In this sense we believe the Salvadoran people, in light of the scarcities we are enduring, cannot afford to have three organizations like these spend 130 million colones when there is so much needed, particularly in education, health, and housing. These are the three sectors the government intends to reinforce. Thus, the services bought with the people's money—because it is the people who pay the taxes—will return to the people in the form of something worthwhile and helpful. We cannot provide much detail on several matters, but as an example I would like to mention that we recently said that Incafe, for example, had 20 million pounds of processed coffee and had spent 72 million colones to produce it. That is an unjustifiable waste when there are so many other needs in other areas. This is why the government, after serious consideration, made the decision on those three organizations.

I would like to be equally firm in saying that these are the only three government agencies that have been included in this program. It is not privatization, but closing down operations so as not to continue pouring resources into those agencies that do not produce any benefits. I would like to explain a little about privatization, so there is no confusion. Privatization is not the closure or the halting of operations of a company. Privatization does not disturb a company's operation. It transfers the shares held by the state to a privately-owned entity, while company operations continue. What type of company is subject to privatization? The Presidente Hotel is the best example. When have you heard that a government needs to have or operate a hotel? That is for the private sector, which does a better job. What was going on with the Presidente Hotel when we came to power in 1989? The Christian Democratic government officials treated it as if it were their home. They had rooms there that were paid for by the government. They consumed food and drink at government expense. The government has no reason to own hotels, textile factories, or sugar mills. The government must offer basic services to the people. I reiterate that privatization is not the closure of a company, but simply the sale or transfer of shares to another

sector. The same happens when shareholders of a company decide to sell to another company. The company does not cease to operate, and there are no dismissals or any other such things. The shares simply change hands. At the most, management may change and a new rhythm of work may begin, depending on the new shareholder. Privatization does not mean the closing of companies. It is just a change in company ownership.

This is why I feel it is necessary to clarify this. These sectors that want to destabilize the country are trying to say that the privatization program means the closing down of a large number of companies and that many government workers will be left jobless. That is absolutely false. The only three companies that really had to cease operations are those I have already mentioned. That is as far as the program goes. It is not a privatization program, because the IVU, Incafe, and IRA have not been sold. Privatization is the sale of the shares that the government holds in a company to another sector that can manage the company much more efficiently and that will not give in to the corruption you all know well.

I want to ask all of you, particularly the Salvadoran people, not to be fooled by destabilizing strategies that only seek to create chaos and anarchy. This is a time when the country needs to be wise and calm. It needs patriotism more than anything. We know that not everyone in our country can enjoy the benefits and that we are going through a crisis, but we believe the crisis can be solved as long as we all contribute to that stability. I specifically mean that we must all contribute to peace and not to anarchy. I am sure the majority of Salvadorans are honest hard-working people who love their country and do not want any more chaos, confrontation, or destabilization. They realize there are harsh measures that must be taken, but also that there are valid reasons for them.

* Salvador Samayoa on FMLN Internal Debate

91P40411A San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 20 Jul 91 p 7, 22 Jul 91 p 9

[Interview with Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN Political-Diplomatic Committee; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[DIARIO LATINO] What are the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] principal internal problems with regard to the negotiations and the future formation of a political party?

[Samayoa] You have to view the FMLN as it really is. The FMLN is a multiparty front which acts in a unified way, with regard to strategy and tactics, in military matters. But, it is a multiparty front. The groups, or contingents, have different ideological and political origins; [the groups] have always had, and still maintain, political differences which are debated within the FMLN to reach a common position. Regarding the negotiations, the FMLN has a single political position. There is no problem here. There may be a bit of a problem within the broad sectors of the FMLN's social base that would like to see greater economic, political, and social gains in the negotiations. Perhaps they feel a certain level of dissatisfaction regarding what it is possible to achieve in the negotiations. But, upon analyzing the sum total of the results in the negotiations, even these sectors would have a positive attitude about the importance and depth of those results.

Regarding what might occur when we begin to function as a party, as a political movement, I believe the high levels of political debate that we have—and have always had—will be more widely and openly expressed. This would be good; it would be a sign of vigor and good health. Permanent, open, legal, and systematic contact at all levels with other forces, the political and social visions of the country is undoubtedly going to permeate the political visions of the groups comprising the FMLN. [sentence as published] Likewise, the FMLN, in contact with the rest of the forces, is going to influence them. That is logical. So this will produce debate which is more open; and the need to reach consensus regarding political ideas and positions is probably going to be greater than it is now. Pluralism—which there must be—by which is understood freedom to express political differences, has to be preserved, and the political options before us will expand. Therefore, I could not predict or guarantee beforehand the manner in which this political contingent, which is now the FMLN, might evolve. The FMLN has been a collection of forces. It has played an important historic role and must continue playing it at least until the process of change and social peace has been completely consolidated in the country. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Bombs Explode in Cities Over 24-Hour Period

PA1808022491 Paris AFP in Spanish 0139 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Managua, 17 Aug (AFP)—Three bombs exploded in Nicaraguan cities in less than 24 hours, causing damage but no victims, police sources reported today.

The last explosion occurred in front of the studios of a radio station in Jinotepe, 50 km south of Managua, damaging the electricity transformer, the roof, and totally destroying the main door of the building, a police spokesperson reported.

Several unidentified persons detonated a fragmentation grenade in a densely populated neighborhood of Managua, without causing damage or victims.

The most serious attack occurred in Jinotega, 161 km north of Managua, where the local office of a group of former contras was partially destroyed by the impact of a powerful bomb blast. No victims were reported, but material damage was estimated at $5,000.

These actions have occurred one day after the government, the Sandinist labor unions, and a group of businessmen reached an agreement that confirms the delivery of homes and lands granted by the former Sandinist government.

The agreements reached will be submitted to the National Assembly, which will initiate a debate this coming Tuesday [20 August] to repeal the property laws in the country on the initiative of the ruling Conservative Party.

The proposal contemplates the repeal of Laws 85 and 86, which were enacted by the the Sandinists before leaving power in April 1990 to distribute lands to persons close to them.

The Sandinists have called on persons who benefited from these laws to exert pressure "with all their strength" this coming Tuesday in front of the legislature to block the repeal of the laws.

For this reason, National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar announced that police protection has been given to the 51 government deputies. On Tuesday the legislative branch building will be heavily guarded by the police.

Two months ago, when the conservatives announced their proposal to revert properties to their former owners, there were also outbreaks of strikes and bomb explosions and the 39 Sandinist deputies walked out of the legislature, but announced their return on Friday.

'Recontras' Agree To End Hostilities

PA1708000091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2308 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Managua, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—It was reported 16 August that rearmed former "contra" representatives have agreed to suspend attacks as a result of talks held with government delegates on 15 August in northern Nicaragua.

At a Managua news conference, Jorge Irias, adviser to the Nicaraguan Government minister, who headed the official delegation that met in Quilali with "recontra" representatives, announced that both sides will meet again on 29 August.

According to Irias, "Bigote de Oro" and "Campeon," two representatives of Jose Moran Flores, alias "El Indomable," who heads the "recontras," listened to a report on all the work the government is doing to disarm civilians all over the country.

The official delegation insisted before the "recontra" representatives that arming is not the solution to the problems they present and that the government is making its best effort to attain full stability in northern Nicaragua.

The "recontras" reiterated their requests, which include the release of former "contra" members, the withdrawal of police from areas where the demobilized have established themselves, and the withdrawal of Sandinist People's Army troops from places where the former "contras" move about.

The Quilali talks took place with the mediation of representatives of the Archbishop of Managua Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and the OAS' International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV).

About 800 curious onlookers remained in the area where the talks were held, while "El Indomable," with about 120 armed men, awaited the results of the talks seven km away from Quilali, a municipality close to the Honduran border, the source said.

Government Makes Offer to El Indomable

PA1708171191 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The government has offered to release all political prisoners from the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] if El Indomable surrenders his weapons. Commanders Campeon and Bigote de Oro represented El Indomable in a meeting held with government delegates. They will meet again on 22 August. The RN guerrillas demanded that Government Minister Carlos Hurtado attend the next meeting.

CES Reaches Agreement on Ownership Issue

PA1708034391 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Aug 91 pp 1, 12

[Report by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] The Economic and Social Concertation [CES] reached last night its first agreements—with the exception of the COSEP [National Council for Higher Enterprise]—on the land ownership issue and the privatization of enterprises to favor the workers. "It is an acceptable agreement, generally speaking," FNT [National Workers Front] leader Damaso Vargas commented.

At 2200, as we prepare to close this edition, the second phase of the CES is about to discuss real estate issues. The FNT, the Workers Permanent Congress (CPT), and the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] had already discussed this, and "they have agreed to protect those benefitted with Laws 85 and 86," Vargas said.

"I believe that, with God's and the Virgin's help, we will reach a final agreement tonight," it was stated by Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, chairman of the CES Directorate Board.

Contrary to what happened two nights ago, the participants had a dinner break, which indicated that they sought to sign the agreement that same night. One of the labor union delegates said: "Special guests have been invited to attend the solemn ceremony where the document will be signed."

Even though the relation between size and registered value was one of the most difficult issues, the government, UNAG, and labor union representatives achieved progress on the issue of respecting a 100-meter area as an acquired right for those who were benefitted with the much discussed real estate laws.

The registered values issue "is difficult because it is higher in certain zones. It is less in the measure that the land is located farther from urban zones," Damaso explained when confirming the FNT's willingness to sign all the overall agreements.

The first agreement on rural ownership—farmland—was signed at 1815 by the government, the CPT, and UNAG. The FNT did not sign it for reasons that Vargas explained.

Nevertheless, Ramiro Gurdian said: "I will sign in two years." He did not explain why.

Regarding the position adopted by businessmen who are represented by Gurdian, CPT leader Jose Espinoza commented: "He is fighting like a businessman, defending his organization's interests."

Likewise, FNT leader Edgardo Garcia said that the COSEP wants agreements that violate current laws and it endorses the "land seizures being planned at the National Assembly."

Gurdian again insisted on 15 August that his organization's reluctance to accept an agreement is caused by the "Sandinist giveaway," a derogatory term referring to Laws 85 and 86.

The businessman also emphasized that the workers' participatory percentage in the privatization of enterprises should be decided after properties are returned to their owners. This point represented the main contradiction with the FNT, an organization that has always favored deciding the percentage before the properties are returned.

Last night's agreement establishes a 25 percent participation for the workers in all of the state's enterprises; and recognition of the labor unions as the workers' legitimate representatives.

The COSEP proposed something entirely different.

Referring to the rural ownership issue, the agreement guarantees the land ownership rights of individual producers and cooperatives that received titles, documents, or permits—through the Agrarian Reform—before 25 February 1990.

It adds: The cases of people who by 25 February 1991 had not yet taken possession of Agrarian Reform—administered land for which they had received title deeds issued by the Agrarian Reform Institute—will be reviewed.

Beneficiaries with title deeds issued by the Agrarian Reform Institute who took effective possession of the land between 25 February and 25 April 1990 will receive legal securities and Legal Land Rights Certificates [Solvencia de Ordenamiento Territorial—SOT] worth 120 cordobas.

The issuing of these certificates will take place on the basis of a rational land-head-of-family relation, taking into consideration the location and peculiarities of the land, the existence or not of any infrastructure, the beneficiary's personal dedication to the agricultural exploitation of the land, and his lack of economic resources.

Persons who received and took possession of a property that had been returned, exchanged, or for which the state had paid an indemnity during the same period, can also acquire the certificate.

Land not distributed following the review process will return to the state and will be used to fill Agrarian Reform Institute requirements. The Presidency will appoint a special commission to handle this surplus land.

Land apportioned by the Agrarian Reform Institute cannot be transferred to third parties for a three-year period, except when it is to serve as guarantee in transactions with the National Finance System or with other state or private organizations that finance rural development projects.

The consensus document presented by the government sustained alterations of this last paragraph. The altered paragraph adds: "In exceptional cases, the proper state institution may authorize its transfer."

Livestock, coffee, and cotton fields in the hands of state enterprises on 25 April 1990 will be privatized for the benefit of demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the Sandinist People's Army, the people who work at these farms, and the former owners when land returns are feasible and when the former owners have secured a favorable resolution.

The agreement establishes that the owners of farms to be returned to the state must issue documents backing claims that improvements were made to the property being returned, if any were made. Former landowners who have secured a favorable resolution and whose land cannot be returned to them are entitled to an indemnity based on the state's possibilities.

Edgardo Garcia, leader of the Association of Agricultural Workers, said: "We view the progress that has been made as positive. We would be completely satisfied if we were able to reach an agreement on salaries." He described the document on land ownership as "an alternative to the aggressive positions of Nicaraguan Opposition Union deputies."

Sugar Mill Workers Declare General Strike

PA1708201091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1536 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Managua, 17 Aug (NOTIMEX)—It was learned here today that, following six months of legal struggle to obtain a 100 percent salary increase, workers at five Nicaraguan sugar mills have gone on strike.

Workers at the Benjamin Zeledon, German Pomares, Javier Guerra, San Antonio, and Victoria de Julio sugar mills decided to declare a general strike yesterday after noting that the salary increase request made by the Sugar Workers Federation in March has gone unheeded.

Workers' leader Alberto Alvarez told the newspaper BARRICADA that the fact that the workers' demands have not borne fruit and that the government officials are not interested in solving the conflict by means of a dialogue, "might seriously endanger the 1991-92 sugar harvest."

Alvarez said that the salary hike would not increase production costs and therefore would not represent an increase in the retail price of sugar.

Sugar is one of Nicaragua's leading exports. Along with coffee and cotton, it generates some $300 million per year in revenue.

USSR Interested in Economic Cooperation

PA1708194991 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Meliav, deputy economy minister of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, [name and title as heard] has explained in a news conference that his country has a fundamental objective with Nicaragua, which lies in the economic and trade cooperation between both countries.

Russian businessmen arrived in Nicaragua and have already made contact with Nicaraguan businesses, thereby opening up a new stage regarding mutual cooperation.

Panama

PRD Rejects Noriega's Political Aspirations

PA1608170391 Paris AFP in Spanish 0640 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Panama, 15 Aug (AFP)—Ernesto Perez, president [as received] of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD-Torrijist), today rejected ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega's political aspirations, labelling him a "traitor" in the service of U.S. interests.

Frank Rubino, Noriega's lawyer, stated this past week that the former Panamanian strongman aspires to rule the nation once again, "as he did in the past," if, as a result the trial slated for 3 September in Miami, he is set free.

Nevertheless, the president of the PRD—the party that had backed the former military regime—assured: "We would not support any of Noriega's political aspirations. He was never a party member and his lack of patriotism has been proven by his own lawyers, who claim he was an agent for the CIA."

The PRD is currently undergoing a restructuring phase. Many of its past leaders have been in jail since December 1989, when the U.S. invaded Panama.

Perez noted that Noriega was never a political leader, because he came to power through military force, therefore "he carries no weight...there is no such thing as the so-called Norieguism."

Ernesto Perez, considered a follower of the late General Omar Torrijos, was persecuted by Noriega in 1984 when he attempted to become the PRD presidential candidate, however, in 1989 he did manage the presidential campaign for Noriega's candidate, Carlos Duque.

'About 260' Refugees Begin 48-Hour Fast

PA1608160791 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Aug 91 p 32a

[By Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] About 260 El Chorrillo refugees yesterday began a 48-hour fast to demand that the government pay attention to their needs, including the payment of $3,500 for household goods they lost during the U.S. invasion in December 1989. Six of them have lashed themselves to the railing of the Bridge of the Americas.

Refugees carrying signs met at the headquarters of the "Committee of the Martyr Neighborhood of El Chorrillo" to demand that the authorities compensate them for the material loses they suffered, including, among others, those pertaining to their homes.

One of the refugees, Raquel Bedoya, said that they are simply asking for what they were promised.

She added that they are still awaiting a reply from a Legislative Assembly commission to which they presented a list of demands in July.

This action by El Chorrillo residents joins a number of individual and collective protests, including hunger strikes, fasts, and people chaining themselves to objects so that the authorities will meet their demands.

Argentina

Gonzalez Denies Resignation, Lauds Gulf Mission

PY1608211091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1805 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (NA)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez stressed today that he has the president's support to stay in his post. Gonzalez added: "We are working on a budget that seeks harmony" with the Armed Forces.

Minister Gonzalez talked to reporters shortly after speaking at the ceremony welcoming the transport ship Bahia San Blas, which returned to the country after three months in the Persian Gulf zone transporting supplies for multinational force ships that remained in the zone after fighting Iraq.

Asked about reports on his possible resignation, Gonzalez said: "The president of the nation has granted his support and trust" to his work at the ministry.

"We are working as usual, with full responsibility and dedication, to fulfill the task entrusted to us," the minister said.

Asked about the Armed Forces' budget, Gonzalez said: "We are seeking a necessary harmony with society to set aside the barriers of mistrust between civilians and the military, and so each sector can learn to respect the other and dedicate itself to fulfill its own role."

Erman Gonzalez regretted the fact that the Navy is operating at only 7 percent of the ideal level, adding: "When we look back we can understand how things could have deteriorated so badly. We can see budgets and policies that have not taken proper care of the national patrimony."

Speaking at the welcoming ceremony, Gonzalez said: "We are sure that history will hold a special corner for this opportune and wise government decision to participate in this peace mission."

"This attitude puts Argentina on the side of other nations that understand that world peace and order will be assured only when everyone becomes conscious of the need to ban discriminations, aggressions, or the action of powerful nations that pretend to impose their will on others by force," the minister emphasized.

Speaking to the Bahia San Blas' crew, Gonzalez said: "The entire Argentine people is proud of your capacity, professionalism, and for the righteousness of the mission, I welcome you."

Menem on Release of Former Intelligence Agent

PY1608220091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Former intelligence agent Raul Guglielminetti, accused of torture and extortion during the latest military dictatorship, yesterday was freed on account of having served two-thirds of the six years and six months' prison term to which he was sentenced on charges of armed robbery and illegal possession of high-power guns.

Judge Rodolfo Madariaga ordered Guglielminetti's release and reportedly irritated top government levels, particularly newly appointed Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, who said that the criminal's sudden freedom "might not coincide with the Argentines' average morality."

Guglielminetti dodged journalists by leaving the Central Police Headquarters through a back door at 10:30 in the morning.

President Carlos Menem was reportedly displeased at the news for he pointed out that if Madariaga "has committed an excess he'll have to be impeached."

However, following Manzano's express indications, the convict's criminal record was thoroughly assessed for possible charges outstanding, and only after this was cleared the authorities ordered his release.

Menem Leaves for Brazil on 2-Day Visit

PY1808205091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1823 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (TELAM)—At 1515 today President Menem departed for Brasilia on a two-day working visit, which is designed to strengthen bilateral integration through the signing of new accords. He will also seek to make progress in the implementation of the Common Market of the South.

Menem, who did not speak with journalists, left on board the 0-2 Tango presidential airplane from the military base of the Metropolitan Airport.

He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, among others.

Armed Forces To Reduce Troops, Sell Property

PY1808223691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Aug (EFE)—It was reported today that the number of troops of the Argentine Armed Forces will be reduced by 30 percent, and that new soldiers will be assigned exclusively to the Army, according to a reorganization plan drafted by the Defense Ministry.

The plan, which will be submitted to President Menem on 21 August, provides for Argentina to have, by the year

2000, troops that "it can maintain and which will take part in disuassive and defensive activities; there are no offensive goals."

The plan, which will be signed by Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez, provides for the creation of "quick deployment forces" with the participation of troops from the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, according to the area in which they will be deployed.

According to the document, which is a 10-year plan, the military units headquartered in the border area will be given priority, and the units will be located according to decisions made by the government, Defense Ministry spokesmem told EFE.

During the first two years of its implementation, the plan provides for the "dismantling" of Army units and several Air Force brigades and subunits based in the Buenos Aires, La Rioja, Entre Rios, Cordoba, and San Luis Provinces.

The Air Force will "unify" bases to reduce to three the centers for combat, interception and training aircraft.

The "centers" will consist of the brigades from Cordoba Province—in the center of Argentina—Ezeiza, a township near Buenos Aires, and Rio Gallegos, 2,777 km south of Buenos Aires, near the Malvinas Islands.

The plan also has a requirement that separates the three branches from the National Treasury Retirement Office, on which they almost exclusively depend to pay retirees' salaries.

Conscripts (nonprofessional soldiers) will enroll only in the Army, and considering that as of 1992 youths will not longer perform the 12-month compulsory military service in the Navy and Air Force, professional troops will be responsible for performing this task.

According to the plan which will be submitted by the Defense Ministry to the president, Argentina's Armed Forces will reduce to less than half the average of almost 80,000 nonprofessional soldiers that have enlisted since 1950.

The three branches have decided to sell property to implement their reorganization plan. The first auctions will held within 30 days, when the Air Force will sell three properties in Buenos Aires.

The Air Force expects to sell 80 hectares of the property occupied until 1989 by the former 7th Air Brigade based in Moron—some 35 km west of Buenos Aires—to finance the reorganization of the existing air bases, which will demand some $100 million.

Emergency in Santa Cruz; Evacuation Begins

PY1508190291 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Carlos Suarez report from Perito Moreno]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The situation here in Perito Moreno has become worse because a thick cloud of smoke and ash covers the town. We still had our lights on at about 1230 because it was still dark throughout the region. We could say that sunrise in Perito Moreno occurred at about 1200 or 1230 today.

The Perito Moreno municipal secretary has reported that buses have been sent to the town of Los Antiguos, right on the Chilean border. Los Antiguos, 55 km west from Perito Moreno, is also on the shore of Buenos Aires Lake. Two Perito Moreno Municipality buses have been sent to the site to begin evacuating the local residents who, according to the last census, total approximately 5,000 people. [passage omitted]

In this morning's newscast, we reported that information received last night indicated that, despite the heavy ash rain, people were calm and the situation was well under control. Services were still being supplied and sanitary conditions in the area were still good. Summarizing, until then there were no major problems; however, the evacuation of residents was started because this morning light tremors shook the area and an enormous cloud of smoke and ash covered Los Antiguos and Perito Moreno. [passage omitted]

The Santa Cruz provincial government has declared a state of emergency in the province in view of the volcanic cloud caused by the Hudson Volcano eruption now covering the entire province.

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1709 GMT on 15 August adds: "The town of Comodoro Rivadavia, capital of Chubut Province, is under a meteorological alert. Satellite data indicate that if the wind changes direction, the town will be affected by a volcanic cloud resulting from the Hudson Volcano eruption."]

Bolivia

Foreign Minister Says Border Conflict Not Over

PY1708211491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1701 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] La Paz, 17 Aug (EFE)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde visited the border area between Bolivia and Chile on 17 August. The minister then said that he did not believe the problem was over.

"Border problems between Bolivia and Chile are not over and solutions are not definitive," Iturralde said. The foreign minister visited the Todos Santos region, 620 km southwest of La Paz, near the border with Chile, accompanied by Borders Director Oscar Wilde. The two officials inspected border marker 26, located in an area that peasants said was invaded by Chileans.

The foreign minister said the two countries' border commissions have not met since 1983.

Iturralde said delegates met in Santiago during March and analyzed 36 of the 56 maps on border markers separating Bolivia from Chile. Iturralde also announced that the delegates will analyze the remaining 17 [as received] maps at a meeting in La Paz next November.

Iturralde said the Chilean Government recognized that the placing of "milestones" for mine exploration in the area of border markers 48 and 49 in Llica was illegal and promised to destroy them.

After flying over the zone, and then in Todos Santos, the foreign minister expressed concern over repeated reports that Chilean citizens are peacefully entering Bolivian territory.

The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) on 17 August announced that Chilean citizens had penetrated Bolivian territory in Oruro Department and that the region "was systematically being invaded by Chileans."

In the past few weeks, civilian and military authorities denounced the removal of border markers and the peaceful invasion of Bolivian territory by Chilean citizens. The two countries share 975 km of common borders.

Military sources told a local radio station on 16 August that Andean Infantry patrols have intensified their vigilance over the border with Chile to prevent "the peaceful invasion of Bolivian territory."

Military Patrols Increased

PY1608195091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1851 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] La Paz, 16 Aug (EFE)—Military sources reported today that Bolivian mountain infantry patrols have reinforced patrols at the Chilean and Peruvian borders to prevent "the peaceful invasion of the national territory."

According to the same sources reported by Radio Fides of La Paz, the infantry troops stationed in Viacha, 32 km west of La Paz and 182 km southwest of Oruro, have been deployed to intensify control over the borders with the two countries.

The sources added that the military units of Tupiza in the southern Potosi Department are guarding the borders with Argentina and Chile.

The sources told the radio station that the deployment was made to "end the many reports about the peaceful invasion of the national territory." They also said that the main military mission is to safeguard Bolivian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the last few weeks civilian and military officials and residents of the border regions, especially at the Chilean border, reported that border markers had been removed, but that there was no invasion of Bolivian territory which has a 6,750 km border with Brazil, Peru, Chile, Paraguay, and Argentina.

Mining Under Secretaries Submit Resignations

PY1608191691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Mining Investment Under Secretary Rafael Delgadillo and Technical Under Secretary Carlos Alberto Zamora have submitted their resignations to Mining Minister Gonzalo Valda, but they continue to fulfill their duties until the minister decides whether to accept their resignations. Delgadillo explains the reasons for their resignations:

[Begin recording] We have submitted our resignations because this is the normal procedure that follows the designation of a new minister. This is an ethical procedure, and consequently we had to submit our resignations. We have not resigned because of personal problems. I understand that all heads of institutions (?linked) with the sector and directors of the Mining Ministry will also tender their resignations. [end recording]

ADN Leader Denies Banzer Protecting Gen. Meza

PY1708144891 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Guillermo Fortun, deputy chairman of the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] and president of the Senate, has rejected the charges made by the opposition against General Hugo Banzer Suarez.

[Begin recording] [Fortun] In our capacity as individuals and as a political party we reject, with indignation, that type of provocation.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Fortun, the Human Rights Assembly has asserted that Gen. Banzer is largely responsible for protecting General Luis Garcia Meza.

[Fortun] No. There is nothing of the sort. We, and less still Gen. Banzer, are by no means protecting Gen. Garcia Meza. This is another absurd provocation based only on presumptions or guesses. That is no way of doing politics. I think they have taken the wrong path. We—from the chairman to the grassroots of the party—have proven we are treading on the democratic path. Therefore, this type of provocation, should it come from the Human Rights Assembly or any other organization, is groundless. [end recording]

Energy Minister Discusses Gas Sales to Argentina

PY1708143691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Excerpts] New Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Herbert Muller delivered his sworn statement of income and assets to the comptroller's office. [passage omitted]

Later he told the media that negotiations for the sale of natural gas to Argentina are under way:

[Begin recording] As for the prices, everyone is well aware that a very clear deregularization process has been

established. This process will eventually set the price for the natural gas Bolivia sells to Argentina—to northern Argentina—at a price of between $10 and $30, our margin for negotiations. Moreover, because deregularization of prices is a gradual process which will not occur overnight but according to the decrees by the Argentine Congress now being debated, the transition period should take from 12 to 24 months. Therefore, during that period we will still be negotiating with the Argentine State Gas Company. [end recording]

Human Rights Assembly Protests Japanese Offer

PY1708153691 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Report by Edgar Mancilla from Sucre Radio Loyola]

[Text] Betty Romero, president of the Chuquisaca Human Rights Assembly, has reported that a Japanese organization named (Onise) has been offering jobs to people between the ages of 18 and 35. Under the pretext of paying them wages of up to $3,000, the organization wants to take them to Japan. The main request for obtaining these jobs, however, is that the people exchange their names and surnames with Japanese people who are now arriving in Bolivia.

This situation is of concern to members of the Chuquisaca Human Rights Assembly because in Japan, these salaries are hardly enough to pay for food. The Assembly thus requests that the appropriate government organizations investigate the situation.

Brazil

Parties Reject Mosbacher's Criticism

PY1608153891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Aug (EFE)—U.S. Secretary of Commerce Roberto Mosbacher's criticism of the Brazilian Congress was rejected by the leftist and rightist political parties represented in Congress.

Mosbacher said on 13 August in Washington that the Brazilian Congress hinders the program drawn up by President Fernando Collor that is designed to open up the Brazilian economy and market to international competition.

Mauro Benevides, president of the Brazilian Congress, called Mosbacher's criticism intervention in Brazilian affairs. Mosbacher accompanied U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle on a tour to Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, and Haiti early this month.

Today Deputy Delfim Netto of the Social Democratic Party (PDS) asserted that "if the United States could manage to keep its Congress and its economy in hand, it would be doing a great thing."

The leader of the Brazilian Communist Party, Roberto Freire, said that the United States is the last country to give "lessons" on protectionism.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, in turn, today said that although Mosbacher's comments might sound untimely, they do not represent an intervention in Brazilian domestic affairs.

Rezek added that the U.S. Congress is frequently criticized in Brazil due to the restrictions it imposes on exports of Brazilian fruit and shoes.

PDS Deputy Ronaldo Caiado, who favors a monarchy, agreed with Rezek, saying: "We frequently criticize the United States during the Chamber of Deputies plenary meetings."

U.S. Grants Aid To Fight Drug Trafficking

PY1508141691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The U.S. Government will grant Brazil $2.025 million to fight drug trafficking in the country. This announcement was made by the U.S. assistant secretary for international narcotics matters.

This U.S. aid will be earmarked to the Federal Revenues Secretariat, the Federal Police, and the Federal Narcotics Council. The money will be used to train dogs to detect drugs.

Federal Employees Receive Wage Increase

PY1508234691 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Summary] Federal public servants will begin receiving their salary increase tomorrow. The checks were sent this afternoon to the banks, from where all national public servants may collect them by 20 August.

January-July Foreign Capital Increases Noted

PY1508140091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Central Bank Foreign Affairs Director Arminio Fraga has reported that a total of $5.8 billion entered Brazil between January and July 1991 in aid and investments. This represents an 107 percent increase in foreign capital entering the country during the same period last year. He attributes this increase to the tranquillity prevailing in the country.

Chile

Menem Accusation on Making Chemical Weapons

Military Source Denies Remark

PY1608185691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] A military source said today that Chile has not made chemical or biological weapons and that it has no

plans to make them in the future, thus denying the accusation made by Argentine President Carlos Menem.

On the eve of the signing of an agreement between Argentina and Brazil to refrain from making this type of military weapon, Menem told the press that Chile has something in the making in this area. Menem said that the information on Chile regarding this issue is very vague and that an agreement similar to the one being signed with Brazil should also be on Chile's mind.

In Santiago, a military spokesman who asked not to be identified labeled Menem's remarks as simple speculation, adding that they do not even seem credible. He added that there is no budget or political will in the country to make chemical or biological weapons.

Minister Refutes Production

PY1708020291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas this afternoon denied that Chile is producing chemical or bacteriological weapons. The minister thus replied to reports datelined Brazil that quote Argentine President Carlos Menem as saying that he is aware that Chile is producing some sort of weapon of that kind.

[Begin recording, in progress] ... does not have and has no plans for developing chemical weapons of any kind, much less for using them. Chile has only conventional weapons and projects of that type. We are working with the Chilean Foreign Ministry so that with Argentina and other countries—perhaps Brazil and other countries—an agreement could be reached in the near future banning the production and use of chemical, bacteriological, and nuclear weapons in our continent. [end recording]

The minister said the chemicals that are produced for the conventional explosives manufactured in Chile are something different, adding that this is done all over the world.

The minister said Menem's remarks were based on inaccurate information caused by a chemical complex run by the Army that, despite its name, produces conventional weapons. He added that [passage indistinct].

Aylwin Comments on Remark

PY1708023291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] In our talks, I categorically told him that Chile has no potential for the production of chemical weapons, and that it is not working on the production of such weapons either.

This was President Patricio Aylwin's reply to a journalist's question about remarks allegedly made in Buenos Aires by Argentine President Carlos Menem, who reportedly said that he is aware that Chile is producing some type of chemical or biological weapon.

Aylwin made this remark during a brief conversation with journalists in Valparaiso as he was entering the Navy commander in chief's office building after attending a seminar on Chilean prospects in the Pacific basin. The seminar, to which the president was invited by the Navy, was held this morning at the former Navy school, located at Artilleria Zone in Playa Ancha.

Alluding to what an international news agency report attributed to President Menem, Aylwin said:

[Begin recording] Look, the first thing that needs to be done is to learn whether President Menem has actually said what has been attributed to him. I think it is very strange because in our talks I categorically told him the truth; namely, that Chile has no potential for the production of chemical weapons and that it is not working on the production of such weapons either. [end recording]

The president added that he does not think it necessary to directly contact the Argentine president on the subject and that normal diplomatic channels should be used.

Aylwin said he came to Valparaiso, in response to an invitation from the Navy commander in chief, to attend a Navy-sponsored seminar on Chilean prospects in the Pacific basin, which is a very important issue for our country.

I think the seminar's contents are a very interesting and valuable contribution, he added.

Asked about the attempt to relocate Congress to Santiago, Aylwin said the decision should be made by Congress itself.

Colombia

Heavy Casualties in Rebel Attack on Simiti

PA1608232491 Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 16 Aug (AFP)—Official sources reported today that 30 people were killed, four were wounded, and extensive damage was caused as a result of a prolonged clash that took place today between the police and a guerrilla column.

Early this morning, approximately 200 members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) attacked the town of Simiti, Bolivar Department, 600-km from Santa Fe de Bogota. The ensuing fight with the town's 33-man police force lasted almost 12 hours.

The corpses of 10 rebels, including that of "Reynel," chief of the 24th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and his second in command, were left behind in the main square of this town of 8,000 residents.

Eight more corpses removed by the guerrillas during their escape were found later in the town's surrounding area. Seven more rebels perished when the truck in which they were heading toward the nearby mountain area overturned, the sources indicated.

Policemen Juan Mercado, William Bayona, and Florentino Castaneda were killed in action. Three other policemen were wounded, as well as the wife of one of them, who was inside the precinct.

Also killed were Doctors Alberto Calderon and Freddy Gomez, as they got caught in the crossfire. The police precinct, the Telecom [Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise], and 12 homes were destroyed, which gives an idea of the intensity of the fighting.

The zone has been militarized, as the police and the Army, with the support of helicopter gunships, are combing the nearby area for the guerrillas.

CNGSB Seeks Resumption of Peace Talks

PA1608195491 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1801 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Caracas, 13 Aug (DPA)—The Colombian guerrillas today pressed the Colombian Government to resume the peace negotiations and rejected unilateral responsibility for the current deterioration of Colombia's political situation.

Pablo Catatumbo, Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) spokesman and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia's (FARC) commander, insisted on the need for the Colombian Government to sit down again at the negotiating table to reach an agreement on a cease-fire.

The dialogue between representatives of President Cesar Gaviria's government and the CNGSB had been scheduled for 26 August; however, over the past few days, there have been indications that the talks could start as soon as 19 August in the Venezuelan capital.

Nevertheless, the Colombian Government issued a severe warning to the guerrillas at the last minute and stressed that the Armed Forces are prepared to face "even more complex" situations, according to Government Minister Humberto de la Calle.

Meanwhile, Catatumbo rejected the guerrilla's unilateral responsibility for the escalation of the internal war and said that the rebels were only responding to the attacks of the security forces. Catatumbo, who is in Caracas as the CNGSB's spokesman, noted that the military forces have not given up on the guerrillas' military defeat.

The peace negotiations were initiated on 3 June, after more than three decades of armed conflict in Colombia; however, they were suspended, without substantial progress three weeks later. Both parties had agreed to a 10-point agenda that initially provides for a bilateral cease-fire.

President Specifies Partners

PA1608223291 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo disowned peace efforts with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] members of his administration. According to information learned by RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional], the government does not endorse the contacts made by Economic Development Minister Ernesto Samper Pizano, Economic Development Ministry Advisor Monica De Greiff, and Industrial Development Institute [IFI] Director Rodrigo Villamizar.

In a communique issued by the Narino Presidential Palace, the government warned that the only persons authorized to hold talks with the guerrillas are Peace Councilman Jesus Antonio Bejerano and his advisers. The official decision added that all other government officials who intervene in the peace process must have the previous and express authorization of the president, the government minister, or the peace councilman.

It was also indicated that contacts with guerrilla representatives by private individuals do not come under the control of the government prohibition.

RCN has established that a month ago the economic development minister took part in a meeting held in Caracas and attended by guerrillas Alfonso Cano, Ivan Marquez, and Francisco Galan. In addition, another meeting was held last week with other guerrilla representatives and was attended by former minister Monica De Greiff, IFI Director Rodrigo Villamizar, the Shell Company manager, Cali Mayor German Villegas, and Bavaria Company President Augusto Lopez Valencia.

Guerrillas To Continue Hostilities

PA1608163091 Paris AFP in Spanish 2135 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, Aug 14 (AFP)—The Colombian guerrillas announced today that they will continue hostilities and the wave of violence until they achieve a cease-fire agreement with President Cesar Gaviria's government in the peace negotiations that are to be renewed in Caracas on 26 August.

In a poor two-way radio conversation from the southern Colombian mountains, Manuel Marulanda, alias "Tirofijo," commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), told the privately owned Emisoras Caracol Network that "the armed struggle is justified as long as things are not resolved."

The legendary subversive commander asserted that President Gaviria had declared war on the guerrillas when he ordered the Army to attack the FARC central camp in the mountains of southeastern Meta Department on 9 December 1990.

Marulanda said that FARC, the National Liberation Army (ELN), and the small dissident Popular Liberation Army (EPL), which comprise the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB), are willing to come to a negotiated solution of the conflict in Caracas.

The third round of negotiations between the government and the CNGSB are scheduled to be held in Caracas, Venezuela on 26 August. However, President Gaviria has said that the negotiations will be renewed on the condition that the rebels show their willingness to hold the dialogue by stopping their violent actions.

Marulanda, by rejecting the government's demands, explained that a unilateral cease-fire was not agreed upon in the 10-point agenda approved by both parties during the first two rounds of the Caracas negotiations, which began on 3 June.

Consequently, the leader of FARC, the oldest guerrilla group in Latin America, which has refused to be demobilized, ruled out a suspension of its violent operations while a bilateral agreement in this regard is being negotiated with the government.

He argued that the guerrillas "cannot stop defending themselves while the Army is attacking us, while it bombs the civilian population and tortures people, and while President Gaviria approves more funds for the Armed Forces."

"We are fighting against reactionary forces that have been opposed to change in this country for a long time. We are only defending ourselves," Marulanda said.

Meanwhile, FARC ideologist Alfonso Cano, who also made statements to Caracol, admitted that the climate that prevails before the Caracas talks "is very rarefied [enrarecido]."

Cano, who has participated in the peace negotiations with the Colombian Government in the neighboring country, said "the resumption of the dialogue is important."

ELN leader, Spanish priest Manuel Perez, in the same radio conversation, said that his group has shown signs of its commitment toward peace by recently releasing several soldiers and by suspending its sabotage of utility poles.

"We are not promoting war. We want the dialogue to continue, and we want it to lead to an authentic solution of the conflict," said the Spanish priest who added that he follows the example of struggle of liberator Simon Bolivar.

Deputy Bribed To Vote Against Extradition

PA1608144591 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Report by Miguel Cote]

[Text] Peace and tranquillity prevail in the port of Boyaca one month after the murder of [Middle Magdalena self-defense group leader] Henry de Jesus Perez. Rumors abound with regard to the possible disbanding of the region's self-defense groups, now headed by Ariel Otero. Peasants have filed numerous complaints at the Municipal office against it, as they feel they would be left without any help. [sentence as heard]

[Begin recording of unidentified person] It hope they are disbanded. That would be good for the country and for peace. [end recording]

Compounding this situation are reports that Augusto Ramirez Cardona, former National Constitutent Assembly deputy for Boyaca, accepted a bribe from Pablo Escobar Gaviria to vote against extradition.

[Begin recording] [Boyaca mayor] I do not think he had any problems with Pablo Escobar's people. If Pablo surrendered to the authorities it was because he wanted peace.

[Reporter] What is Augusto Ramirez Cardona like?

[Mayor] He is a doctor; very nice, very calm. [end recording]

All that remains is to wait for the self-defense groups to reveal to the public the videocassette showing in detail how Ramirez received the money.

* Assembly Members Assess Judicial Reforms

* Flaws Viewed

91SM0426A Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 4 Jul 91 p 1B

[Commentary by Hernando Yepes Arcila, Social-Conservative Constituent Assembly member]

[Text] When it becomes possible to analyze the event in perspective, the 1991 judicial reform will inevitably be recognized as the Congress's supreme moment. Never before in the rich history of Colombian constitutional law has this branch of the law been given such a prominent and clear-cut standing within the universe of powers, nor been assigned a greater mound of functions.

In contrast, however, for the judiciary as a whole, the balance sheet is not that one-sided: The ample repertory of changes wrought in the judiciary contains advances and setbacks, as well as changes, the result of which cannot be anticipated.

The struggle against impunity—that is, the fight for the rule of law and justice—is bound to receive a beneficial boost with the establishment of the Office of the Attorney General and the far-reaching change this will entail, with the setting up of judiciary structures specializing in prosecutions under criminal law.

The establishment of a Constitutional Court, however, is without a doubt a step backward, a guile without any justification. The provincialism of some, the intent of others to augment the jurisdictional power of the government to the detriment of the very concept of the Constitution, and the judiciary's determination to posit itself as the bulwark of civil liberties, undoubtedly drove the Assembly to import foreign models to supplant the more efficient, more suited, more advanced domestic solutions that the Colombian creative genius had conceived for the specific purpose of guaranteeing the careful observance of the integrity of the Constitution. Our inexperienced Constituent Assembly members went unnecessarily into a search among the European constitutions, that on this specific point are less advanced than ours, for a solution to one of the few problems that we Colombians had already solved, indeed solved as far back as the beginning of this century.

This useless change cannot be viewed simply as a manifestation of constitutional inexperience or political tomfoolery. Behind it lies the sacrificing of the great achievement attained by our national system, that of entrusting the limiting of legislative and executive powers to an autonomous judiciary body, made up of totally independent judges, owing nothing to those powers and expecting nothing from them, and for this reason qualified to exercise control without constraints or fear, free of any binding interests except that of the Constitution itself. The reform, on the contrary, subordinates the constitutional control body politically. By subjecting the appointment of its judges to the will of the president of the Republic, who will prepare the list of three candidates, and of the Senate, that will elect from the list, it places the power to appoint the magistrates in the hands of these two branches, with the result that the Court, the intent of which is to limit their powers, now becomes their ally.

The instituting of popularly elected justices of the peace is simply senseless. The elegant concept of neighbors passing judgment, in good conscience and out of a sense of equity, in cases of minor disputes between their fellow-citizens, and in suits of interest to the community insofar as rights are concerned, will certainly be sacrificed if legislative developments link this people's magistrature to universal suffrage. In a country subjected to the general corruption of its patronage system and the influence of wealth of criminal origin, only utter simplemindedness or angelic gullibility can ignore the fact that this system is in crisis.

* Strengths Outlined

91SM0426B Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 4 Jul 91 p 2B

[Article by Fernando Carrillo Florez, Liberal Constituent Assembly member and head of the Assembly's Justice Committee; first paragraph is EL ESPECTADOR introduction]

[Text] The aim is to curb impunity so that peaceful and harmonious relations can prevail. The right of access to justice by all persons is guarantied.

Bogota—The institutional reform of the judicial system and of the function of the public prosecutor is one of the major undertakings of the contemporary state in the strengthening of its structures as a true "state based on justice."

National Longing

And what could we say as to the longing with which the Colombians have awaited the modernization of their judicial system, a longing made all the more acute by the widespread clamor against the ineffectiveness of the system, the distancing and relativizing of the law, and, in a word, the reign of impunity. It was clearly a paramount duty of the Assembly to respond to these national concerns, which had already sought to crystallize through the 1977 and 1979 reforms.

In our urge to keep our sights trained exclusively on the Congress of the Republic, we must not forget that one of the fundamental aims of the constitutional reform process—that through the Constituent National Assembly has become a reality and a manifestation of the most wide-open of participative democracies—is to achieve an efficient system of justice, supplied with modern and flexible means, and capable of enforcing the fundamental rights of the partners in that democracy on the road of constitutional humanism.

Priorities

Having as the guiding principle of our political aspirations a system of wide-open participation, committed to the building of a better tomorrow, the determination to institute a system of justice in keeping with the needs of the country occupies a position of primacy in the concerns of the nation.

The country can rest assured that the Assembly has dedicated a major portion of its efforts to these highly important concerns. Because of this, we can assert with confidence that one of the great achievements of the reform process has been the total reform of the system of administering justice and of the public prosecutor function. In creating the Higher Council of Judges, as a body empowered to govern the independence of the branch and to set the guidelines for the effective functioning of the judiciary, we have succeeded in providing the judiciary with an administrative organization of its own. This Council is assigned specific responsibilities, thus finally clarifying the administrative management of the system, without which no juridical system whatever can be effective.

Support of the Public Prosecutor Function

For the prosecution of crimes and the implementation of criminal law, the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation has been created. Its functions attest eloquently

to the importance and need of such a body, as a functional component of the judiciary. This Office will have the task of restoring the citizenry's confidence in the law, through its conduct of the investigations stemming from the crimes committed within the country, and its concern, in the final analysis, for upholding the rights of the individual. The aim is to thus introduce a definitive curb on the rampant impunity, so that peaceful and harmonious relations can prevail.

The administration of justice is to be based on a set of general governing principles that will serve as guidelines in the achieving of our new national goals. It guaranties, for example, the right of direct access to justice by all persons, thus democratizing the administration of justice to the fullest.

Similarly, the principle of equity is made mandatory in judicial activity, and substantive law is accorded primacy. As is clear at first glance, at a time when creative ideas are called for to resolve the acute problems that beset us and that we are desirous of surmounting, the reform that has been achieved responds coherently and harmoniously to the deeply felt needs of the Colombians.

Another institutional improvement in the juridical system has to do with constitutional jurisprudence, which is headed by the Constitutional Court. The adoption of a new Political Charter renders necessary the creation of a body such as this, whose function, in short, is to harmonize the country's regulatory legislation with the new constitutional state of things, ensuring, in the process, the primacy of and compliance with the principles set forth by the Assembly in its development of the people's sovereign mandate, toward the future struggle for a "human rights culture."

Mindful of the work being done by institutions of such excellence as the Supreme Court of Justice and the Council of State, the members of the Constituent Assembly provided for their organization in such a form as to enable them to continue fulfilling the mission of administering justice at the highest level, in the befitting manner in which they have done so to date.

Suffice it to examine the number of new institutions introduced into the justice system, and the quality of the transformations that have been brought to bear on it by the Assembly, to conclude that never before has the country been closer to the final step toward crystallization of the dream for which so much blood has been spilled.

Paraguay

Presence of U.S. Troops in Concepcion Criticized

PY1608184491 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1619 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The Concepcion Department Workers Coordinating Board has issued a document in which it reiterates to Congress its denunciation of the presence of U.S. troops in Concepcion Department. The document states that Congress should adopt such a stand.

It asks Congress to make a formal decision as an inmediate response to a new document submitted by the Concepcion Department Workers Coordinating Board, which today reiterated before the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee its denunciation of the presence of U.S. military troops carrying out military exercises.

One paragraph of the document states that the presence of U.S. troops and their war materiel is causing uneasiness in Concepcion; they try to disguise their activities as social assistance, but they are carrying out joint reconaissance exercises to train Paraguayan troops on how to confront social conflicts.

According to some congressmen, this situation should not be allowed because it violates the Constitution. [Febrerista Party] Deputy Arnado LLorens stated:

[Begin recording] We believe that this is a serious attempt against the Paraguayan people and especially against the Congress, which is one of the major national institutions. [end recording]

LLorens also said that Congress should adopt a formal stand on U.S. troop activities in our country.

Rodriguez Answers Question on Press Law

PY1908034691 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 18 Aug 91 p 6

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez on 17 August said that he did not advocate a press law but rather a legal regulation to safeguard the people's honor.

Rodriguez made this remark in reply to a journalist's question on the press bill, which was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies a few days ago and was discussed by the Armed Forces, politicians, and businessmen.

Rodriguez said that such a law is in force in other countries, and that it is designed to safeguard the people's honor and makes us aware of our obligations and responsibilities. Rodriguez said: "We have our responsibilities, rights, and obligations because our obligations begin where our rights end—the same way that our neighbor's rights begin, etc."

He reaffirmed that he does not disagree with the belief that a press law is needed "because I believe the minimum rights of journalists must be defended. It is necessary to establish at least a legal regulation to determine the treatment to be given to journalists, and their prerogatives, because I am sure that many of you are not aware of your rights."

Rodriguez also said that he will not submit to Congress any bill that would restrict freedom of expression, which is

stipulated in the Constitution. He did say there is a need to promulgate a law on the defense of people's honor.

Rodriguez also termed "positive" the dialog between the Armed Forces and several sectors of society. He said this dialog is about to conclude, adding that meetings are still to be held with Chaco war veterans and Colorado Party representatives. This series of meetings "reveal that we are determined to consolidate democracy so as to live in a fraternal atmosphere so that our country can live in harmony and prosperity."

Asked whether peasants could meet with miltary officials, Rodriguez said that they can channel their desires through the Agrarian Development Council.

He said that landless peasants can be settled in detachments, like the one dedicated on 17 August, and which are distributed throughout the Chaco region. "Consequently, there will be no problems for peasants who want to sit at this desk; they will receive health and educational assistance from these detachments.

Chilean-Uruguayan Group Purchase BCCI Branches

PY1708185091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Aug 91 p 11

[Text] According to reports from the Argentine capital, a Chilean-Uruguayan business group yesterday bought the Asuncion and Buenos Aires branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

Because of the tight secrecy surrounding the operation, there has been no information about the amount involved or the terms of the sale.

Paraguayan Central Bank [BCP] President Jose Enrique Paez said here that he was not informed of the sale, which reportedly involved a large amount of money.

Paez said that if the report is true, the BCP will have to receive an official notification from the BCCI main offices in the Cayman Islands. In the case of the Asuncion branch, Paez said that the new owners of the bank will have to conform to the requirements of the Law on Banks.

Paez noted that the interests of local depositors will be protected at all times and that no one will suffer any loss.

The BCCI branch of Asuncion has approximately $2 million frozen abroad and $400,000 deposited at the BCP as legal reserve.

The BCP intervened in the local BCCI branch on 8 July in light of the problems faced by the BCCI in more than 60 countries following the closure of their main offices by British monetary officials.

On 8 July, the Asuncion BCCI branch closed its doors, allegedly for "inventory" purposes, but it reopened the following day already under the Paraguayan Government's supervision. Some people were able to withdraw their deposits; others could not do so because the BCCI funds abroad have been blocked. Since 8 July the BCCI local branch has operated only in guaranies.

Document Outlines Proposed Armed Forces Security

Part Three

PY1608163091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Aug 91 p 7

[Third and final part of Armed Forces National Security Doctrine dealing with internal security]

[Text] Chapter four of the document on the Internal Security Doctrine distributed only to businessmen by members of the Military Coordinating Board for the Military-Civilian Dialogue refers to internal defense.

The document states that internal defense is **"all measures and actions that seek to prevent, avoid, or eliminate threats to internal security, independently of its origin, form, or nature. It will be implemented through measures that will be either permanent or used only during occasional episodes, or will be either repressive or operational."**

When outlining in military jargon the idea of prevention, the document states that **"they are actions carried out to prevent the emergence and expansion in the country of a climate appropriate for the development of a subversive process."** They are preventive measures.

The document then defines the term **reventive actions,** stating that **"they are actions carried out to prevent activities by an organization or subversive groups in the country.** To this effect, repressive measures are proposed. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The document then defines the idea of **destruction,** stating that **"they are actions carried out to destroy the mechanism and to neutralize the leaders of any subversive process."**

Internal defense measures are response actions conducted by the state, the document adds.

Repressive Measures

According to the document, repressive measures are implemented through operations of the police-military type.

Among operations carried out by police it cites the following: **Control and elimination of popular agitators; actions against kidnappers and bank robbers; actions to prevent lootings; arrest of agitators; eviction of squatters; and actions to evict invaders of factories and industries.**

Among the military actions it cites are **actions against small groups of subversives in which combat operations are necessary, and attacks in areas occupied by subversives.**

The document also warns that **"political actions"** must be adopted along with the repressive measures. In this regard it notes the need to **implement the safeguards provided for by the Constitution for the defense of the State (state of siege, intervention, etc.).**

The document adds that **"the political body must be responsible for the repressive and operational measures.** [no closing quotation marks as published]

It also notes that the **Armed Forces, in principle, must not participate in operations of the police-military type.**

The document defines **operational actions** as the decisive use of the Armed Forces **for the destruction of a subversive organization already structured with an organized armed branch.**

Deployment of the Ground Forces in Internal Defense

The document given by members of the military coordinating board to some businessmen who participated in the civilian-military dialogue outlines the actions and objectives that are sought when the ground force is deployed for the country's internal defense.

The document adds that it is imperative and essential to **follow the situation through reports. To achieve this, the actions carried out by other sectors of the national government must be supported.**

The ground forces must also participate **in preventive and repressive measures so as to supplement actions of other parts of the national government,** the document says.

It also says that the ground forces **must be present throughout the national territory.**

Therefore it is essential to strengthen the military institution and **to assume the role of maintaining order.**

According to the Internal Security Doctrine, the use of the ground forces in national defense is considered essential **for the control of ground transport, telecommunications, and the mass media.**

There must also be **legal guarantees on internal order and the functioning of essential public services.**

Follow Up Through Information Activities

According to the document on internal security, **the existence of an information mechanism is essential for the success of an internal security system.**

The document also considers that such a mechanism must be a system **stemming directly from the Presidency of the Republic.** It adds that it must comprise all institutions that can, one way or another, obtain information. The coordination of those activities will be entrusted to the Armed Forces unit responsible for the national territory, it states.

In conclusion, the document states that **activities must be carried out on a permanent basis so as to gain concrete knowledge on problems and to identify agents in order to exploit them.**

New Owners of HOY Newspaper Announced

PY1708181891 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Aug 91 p 9

[Text] At 1200 on 16 August, Reinaldo Dominguez Dibb—former owner of the Asuncion newspaper HOY—introduced the members of the paper's new board to its employees.

He told the employees that the newspaper had been sold to a group of businessmen headed by Ruben Dumot, Eduardo Felippo, Rodolfo Vouga, and Prieto Conti (brother of Health Minister Cynthia Prieto).

On the occasion, the new owners mentioned that Juan Carlos Wasmosy, another member of the group, could not attend the meeting in view of appointments he had made previously. The businessmen asserted that, despite the sale, no one will be dismissed.

Dominguez Dibb thanked the employees for having worked with him since he became responsible for HOY, and an employees' representative thanked Dibb for his efforts as the head of the morning paper.

The new owners have reported that Dominguez Dibb will continue to be HOY director until the new group of shareholders organizes the paper's new structure.

Peru

Armed Forces Declare State of Emergency

Rebels Murder Candidates

PA1508201891 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Shining Path rebels murdered three candidates for municipal offices in San Pedro De Cajas, Junin Department, on 14 August. This is part of the rebels' intimidation campaign prior to the municipal elections.

The victims were Andres Abilio Ascano, who was a candidate for mayor, and the candidates for deputy mayor and for alderman, whose names were not released.

Over the last few days Shining Path rebels have murdered four mayors in northern towns near Lima. With these last four murders, the number of municipal leaders murdered by the rebels over the last seven years increased to 140.

Security Redoubled in Districts

PA1808025091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0106 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Lima, 17 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Peruvian Armed Forces have declared 472 districts in a state of emergency in the face of the threat of an "armed strike" made by the Shining Path on the eve of the municipal elections.

In order to guarantee the municipal elections that will take place on 18 August, the government of President Alberto Fujimori declared a state of emergency in several districts and redoubled security in 20 provinces.

According to the National Elections Jury (JNE), more than 820,000 people will vote in 5,040 tables to elect 393 new mayors in towns that have no official authorities. These elections are complementary to those held in November 1990, which were suspended because no security existed to prevent armed groups—particularly the Shining Path—from boycotting the elections.

A state of siege exists in 99 percent of the places where elections will be held. These areas, where the individual guarantees have been restricted, have been placed under the control of the Armed Forces.

The Shining Path reported, through fliers in Ayacucho and other conflictive departments located in the country's Central Sierra, an "armed strike" that inhibits the people from going out into the streets under the threat of being killed.

To counter this announcement, the political-military command has guaranteed the security of the population by deploying large numbers of soldiers and policemen in strategic areas in the cities most affected by the guerrillas. In addition to the security measures, more than 1,000 members of the self-styled "peasant rounds," self-defense groups of civilians who have received shotguns from the Peruvian Government, joined the patrol effort. [passage omitted]

JNE President Carlos Castaneda La Fontaine reiterated that the Armed Forces will guarantee the complementary municipal elections. He also denied that there have been mass resignations of candidates. Castaneda La Fontaine added: "This is the right time to respond to terrorism by coming out to vote in large numbers; the citizens must not fear for their lives."

From the 925 slates that have been presented in this electoral contest, 540 are members of independent groups and 390 belong to well-known political organizations.

Since an armed commando of the Shining Path murdered Huancayo Mayor Saul Munoz Menchado in July 1984, more than 140 mayors have also been killed throughout the country.

Political analysts have said that "the effects of this criminal action are so strong that they have not only physically eliminated the government's representatives, but have affected the very foundations of the system—the elections."

Bomb Explodes, Elections Continue

PA1808200891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1915 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Ayacucho (Pero), 18 Aug (EFE)— At least four persons were killed and 12 were wounded today by the explosion of a device thrown by terrorists near the Ayacucho market on the occasion of complementary municipal elections.

The police reported that the events occurred at noon outside La Magdalena market, located in the city's northeast sector. According to witnesses, two young men threw the bomb at a group of street vendors and then fled.

The dead and wounded include vendors, customers, and pedestrians who were passing by at the time of the attack, which is attributed to activists of the Maoist terrorist group Shining Path, which declared "an armed strike" for 16, 17, and 18 August.

Within the Shining Path methodology, an "armed strike" is a citizens' strike—forced by the Maoist band's death threats to paralyze official, commercial, industrial, and transportation activities. On this occasion, it was declared to obstruct the complementary municipal elections.

The only place where the threat prevails is in Ayacucho. Political observers believe that the Shining Path has concentrated its intimidatory activities in this city against local elections, which are being held today at 20 provinces and 383 districts in 19 of the country's 24 departments.

A similar terrorist attack, also against street vendors, killed two and wounded 20 on 17 August near the main market in this Andean city, located 575 km southeast of Lima.

Police sources said that the wounded, who were transferred to the regional hospital in Ayacucho, include four in critical condition.

Nevertheless, the complementary municipal elections continue at the polling places, where a massive voter turn out has been reported, based on information from the Ayacucho Provincial Electoral Court.

Armed Forces Confirms Clash With Terrorists

PY1608124891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2316 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Lima, 15 Aug (ANDINA)—Through the following press note, the Armed Forces Joint Command today confirmed a criminal action by narcoterrorists yesterday in Ucayali, where four [number as received] civilians and 11 Navy troops were murdered.

Press Note No. 041

At approximately 1500 on Tuesday 13 August, during military actions on the Ucayali front, a clash took place against narcoterrorist criminals on (Federico Basadre) highway, between the villages of Boqueron and Previsto, in Padre Abad province, Ucayali Department.

During the clash, the criminals killed five defenseless civilians and 11 Navy troops.

The insane and murderous behavior of these criminals has once again harmed the human rights of the people because they have killed innocent civilians—in this case four people who were in a vehicle and a lady who was walking nearby.

Military operations continue in an effort to locate and neutralize the narcoterrorists and to bring peace to the region.

Extremists Captured

PY1608231491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1628 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Lima, 16 Aug (ANDINA)—The Armed Forces Joint Command reported today that 15 terrorists who murdered at least 11 people and perpetrated scores of attacks in Cerro de Pasco Department have been captured by the forces of order.

The press release added that the raid netted several submachine guns, pistols, breech-loading shotguns, 3,500 sticks of dynamite, a great deal of subversive propaganda, and other items.

The extremists, who are considered to be members of Shining Path strike forces in the area, were arrested thanks to the decisive support of the population and information provided by previously arrested comrades.

According to preliminary investigations, the arrested subversives have killed three policemen, one county mayor, three government officials, and several peasant patrolmen and peasants.

The Armed Forces Joint Command reported that the forces of order will continue taking firm actions until the country is pacified, bearing in mind current regulations that protect human rights.

Government Decrees New Sales, Consumption Taxes

PY1508125091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Aug 91 p 1

[Summary] The government issued a decree regulating the General Sales Tax (IGV) and the Selective Tax on Consumption (ISC) [Impuesto Selectivo al Consumo] in order to raise the tax level that currently stands at 8 percent of the GDP. The IGV was established at 14 percent. The ISC varies from a 134 percent tax rate on gasoline to 10 percent on mineral water.

Roundup of Terrorist Activities 7-12 Aug

PY1508133891

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on terrorist activities in Peru compiled from Peruvian papers published between 7 and 12 August. Publication information is given in parentheses after each item.

A group of members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] ambushed a police vehicle at approximatly 2300 on 8 August in Cuyumbuque, 19 km from Tarapoto. The attack, perpetrated with Instalaza rockets, explosives, and guns, resulted in the death of six policemen and one 16-year-old girl. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Aug 91 p A12]

Two members of a Shining Path death squadron from Cusco identified as Sixto Luque Gutierrez, 24, and Walberto Soto Olarte, have been arrested by the police and placed at the disposal of the Cusco authorities. The police also found an arsenal belonging to the terrorists which included one Bolivian-made machine gun, seven Bolivian-made Mauser rifles, three 38 caliber Smith and Wesson pistols, six adapted and loaded flare pistols, 250 types of cartridges and weapon accessories, 50 dynamite sticks, percussion caps, 160 meters of slow burning fuse, and some 5,000 Shining Path pamphlets. [Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Aug 91 p 13]

The extreme rightist self-styled Antiterrorist Liberation Commando [Comando de Liberacion Antiterrorista] has threatened to kill LA REPUBLICA journalist Jorge Chavez Morales, whom they accuse of being an undercover terrorist. The same group has also threatened to kill Ayacucho journalists Magno Sosa and Isaias Taquiri. [Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Aug 91 p 3]

Members of the Army raided an important MRTA stronghold called Camarada Roberto in Isla de Gallo, Lamas Province, which served to plan terrorist actions in San Martin Department. As a result of the raid, 20 terrorists and one noncommissioned officer identified as Alfredo Tolentino Riquelme died. During the operation soldiers seized two pieces of transmission equipment, two HK submachineguns and FAL [light automatic rifle] rifles, a large cache of ammunition, and subversive propaganda. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 10 Aug 91 p A4]

According to the National Police, in an attack perpetrated against a police station by 200 heavily armed members of the Shining Path terrorist group on 9 August, eleven policemen and five terrorists were killed and seven policemen were seriously wounded. The terrorists, armed with hand grenades, dynamite sticks, and FAL rifles, attacked the station located in Laramate District, Lucanas Province, at 2145. The shootout lasted until midnight. Before leaving the terrorists destroyed the police station, seized weapons, ammunition, radio equipment, and two trucks in which they carried away the bodies of five dead terrorists. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 Aug 91 p A10]

Uruguay

Economic-Political Agreement Signed With Iran

LD1608154191 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Uruguay signed a political, economic, scientific and technical memorandum in Montevideo Thursday.

The memorandum was inked by Uruguay's Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Vaezi who is currently on an official visit to Montevideo.

The memorandum said the two governments are satisfied with the existing bilateral ties, and called for their further upgrading in all domains.

The two sides also expressed willingness to conclude a cultural, scientific and technical agreement in the near future and called for holding regular consultations between their respective foreign ministries.

The Uruguayan minister hailed the upgrading of Tehran-Montevideo ties and termed the recent opening of the Iranian Embassy in Montevideo as a "major step" in expansion of bilateral ties.

In response, Vaezi called it a "positive and important step" in bilateral relations, adding that Iran gives priority to its relations with the Third World countries.

The two sides also discussed the latest developments in Latin American, as well as the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.

Poll Reveals National Party Losing Support

PY1608153291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0142 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Aug (EFE)—According to a survey that was published today in Montevideo, Uruguay's National Party (Blanco Party) has lost the majority of its electorate after 17 months in government.

The Blanco Party of President Luis Lacalle won the November 1989 election with 37.25 percent of the votes. This is the third time this party has won the presidential election this century.

In less than two years, the results of a poll conducted by the "Equipos Consultores" firm, and published by the economic weekly BUSQUEDA, showed that only 17 percent of the people support the Blanco Party.

Analysts believe that the Blanco Party has lost popularity due to the government's deterioration. Public surveys report that some 55 percent of the people do not agree with the current administration.

The Colorado Party has 25 percent of the electorate which has increased three points since December 1990, the date in which the latest urban poll was conducted. The Colorado Party ruled the country until 1990, losing in the November 1989 election with 29 percent of the votes.

The Broad Front leftist coalition, which for the first time won the municipal elections, maintains a stable 26 percent of the electorate in the urban sector. It won the municipal election in Montevideo, where half of the 3 million Uruguayans live.

The poll also revealed that 22 percent of those polled now claim to be undecided, after voting in 1989 for the Blanco and Colorado parties.

There are almost no undecided voters in the leftist sector, which has more roots in the cities.

Gros Announces New Brussels-Falklands Flights

PY1508183691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1736 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Aug (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell announced today that the Uruguayan airline company "Air Atlantic" will soon begin a commercial flight service between Europe and the Malvinas Islands with possible stopovers at Argentine airports.

Gros said the authorization process is in its final stage and that it will be signed by President Luis Alberto Lacalle in less than two weeks.

"Air Atlantic" will make flights from Brussels to the capital of the Malvinas Islands with a stopover in Montevideo. The possibility of making stopovers at some Argentine airports is also being considered.

Gros said that "major steps in this direction have been taken in recent weeks because Argentine officials are interested in having these flights go through their country."

Venezuela

Foreign Minister Duran Rejects Cuba Initiative

PA1708011691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1339 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Caracas, 16 Aug (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Relations Minister Armando Duran rejected a Latin American political initiative toward Cuba and said that Cuba is no longer a strategic point in hemispheric relations.

"With the end of the cold war, Cuba is no longer a strategic point—either for the United States or Venezuela—and what needs to be sought is a formula to reintroduce Cuba into Latin America," Duran said in an interview published today in the Caracas morning newspaper EL NACIONAL.

"Nearly all Latin American countries agree on this point," Duran said.

In one of his rare public statements, Duran also referred to the border dispute with Colombia and emphasized both sides' strong political resolve to solve the Gulf of Venezuela delimitation problems and to advance bilateral integration.

"Both sides have a very clear political willingness to reach agreement on everything, which does not necessarily mean that agreement will be reached," the Venezuelan foreign minister said.

Differences with Colombia, Duran added, are not limited to the Gulf of Venezuela dispute, but include the delimitation of hydrographic basins, river navigation, and the placement of border markers.

Colombia Accepts Apology for Plane Incident

PA1608035291 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich has stated that the incident that occurred yesterday with a Venezuelan Air Force plane will not affect relations with Colombia because the incident was explained and the government of the neighboring country has accepted the explanation.

At a news conference at Miraflores Palace, Ochoa Antich said that a Bronco OV-10 aircraft, with identification No. 5021, flown by Second Lieutenant Luis Felipe Richards Marquez, accidentally fired seven rockets on the border with Colombia.

This accident resulted in three people wounded, two Venezuelans and one Colombian, and is being investigated. However, any possibility of pilot failure or error has been ruled out. Everything seems to indicate that the plane had an electrical malfunction.

This aircraft is new. The Venezuelan Air Force recently acquired it from the U.S. Air Force.

Once he learned of the accident, the defense minister immediately contacted his Colombian counterpart to offer his apology, which was accepted by the Colombian Government.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Were Colombian authorities pleased with the explanation?

[Ochoa Antich] They were pleased with the apology offered by the Venezuelan Government. Our government asked the Colombian Armed Forces if they wanted to form a joint commission to conduct an investigation. However, the Colombian Armed Forces felt that it was not necessary that a joint commission be formed. They said it was enough that the Venezuelan Armed Forces had said they would investigate. [end recording] [passage omitted]